



# The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1856.

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## Review of the Week.

A BURST of sunshine in the money market is the harbinger of a change in commerce, and we have promises of a brilliant change in the aspect of next session in Parliament. There will indeed be some substitutions of members, even if we do not have a general dissolution. Mr. CONDEN has retreated to his Sussex estate, apparently for life; he disclaims the West Riding any further. He contents himself with writing general letters of advice to his beloved countrymen, this time endorsing President Prence's insidious proposal to disarm our marine on the strength of humanity secured to private property at sea. Mr. BAIGANT, too, is off in the far East, touring it. Lord PALMERSTON will enter the House of Commons virtually, if not legally, as the Member for Manchester, with Sir JOHN PAKINGTON as his colleague! Cockburn being removed to the celestial region of the Common Pleas, will most likely be replaced by Mr. WEGUELIN, a bank director and Russia merchant, of high probity.

The impression that the peace will not again be interrupted strengthens, although we have no positive evidence or guarantee. The reports of a 'second Congress' gain ground, still without any authenticity. Russia has been said to have given up the Belgrad point; but all that we are certain of is, the strong desire of each party in the system of European Governments to keep the peace,—if possible to retain or gain its own objects, but whether gaining or losing, to keep the peace. All sides have something to lose, should there be a more general conflict. The ingenious but precarious arrangements which have been patched up in Constantinople, where AALI PASHA goes in and out of office according to the greater strength of aboriginal Turkish punctilio or STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE ascendancy, show the card-building nature of the 'settlements' in Europe. Anything like a popular movement would soon replace these court manoeuvres by stronger measures. There is a territorial claim dispute between the Danish Government and Holstein—Holstein relying on its German affinities. The Spanish Court is patching up intermarriages between the reigning line and the line of DON CARLOS—a marriage between the grandchildren of FERDINAND's brother; a family arrangement that cannot survive, and which appears to place the mark of doom upon ISABELLA's Court. In

France, the popular discontent is becoming so evident, that the Government seeks to strengthen its outer alliances in all directions. Hence, probably, the continued equivocation of language in which the representatives of its several Ministerial parties speak.

The touchstone of ridicule has been applied to the stability of the Continental system. Mr. MORRIS MOORE goes to Berlin for the purpose of making researches in art. He is well known personally; but he is suspected of two most dangerous qualifications: he is supposed to have acquaintance with foreigners not exclusively on the side of Continental Governments; he has spoken disrespectfully of persons that have held office under German authorities—both in Germany and in England. He has not chosen his Italian acquaintances solely by the test of their legitimate politics. He has not had an official reverence for a WAAGEN or a MÜNDLER. He arrives at Berlin, speaks with a frankness customary amongst Englishmen, and is lodged in prison! The police of Berlin, in their wisdom, do not think that the system of government is safe while Mr. MORRIS MOORE is at large and his tongue at liberty. The Governments, therefore, are resolved to make peace after this fashion—(adjuvante BLOMFELD;) but we have some doubt whether the peoples are entirely of the same mind.

It is enough for the financial speculator. He sees an opportunity opening: discounts have fallen to six or even five per cent. in Holland; the rate in London in the most respectable quarters is below the Bank level; the money market is 'easier'; there have been large arrivals of gold from Australia. "It is coming!" says the commercial man; the sunshine breaks, the storm is passing, and we are to have a new flush of prosperity. Already arrangements are made for taking up shares in the new Russian Steam Navigation Company. There are hopes that vigilance may be lulled asleep, and that the PEREIREs, HOPES, and BARINGS may obtain something towards the first instalment of the Russian railways. The Bull party in the money market will of course trumpet the note of 'peace,' if it be only for a time. It is in these fitful intervals that great capitalists make their large fortunes. We hear, for instance, of a gentleman who was supposed to hold large property in a foreign railway. No such thing! He did suddenly become the admirer of the Government which conceded the railway, and likewise a pro-

prietor; but, long before any question had arisen as to the ultimate level which those 'shares' would find in the market, he had parted with them, and retained only the immense profit on his part of the original concession. This is the plan. The great men deal only in large schemes; their market day lies in the interval between the panics of the world; and they would lull a continent to sleep, in a false reliance upon peace, if they could snatch a profit while the world was dozing.

The position of Switzerland becomes more important, and the Administrative Reform Association will do well to look to it. Prussia has before the Federal Government a formal demand for the surrender of the prisoners who were taken when the rebellion in Neuchâtel was put down. Our readers may remember the case. One of the POURCELLES family made a revolution on purpose to snatch back the canton for the royal possession of its 'suzerain,' the King of Prussia. It was a decided breach of the law—high treason, indeed; but the King of Prussia has declared in a State paper that, although the rebels were guilty of irregularity, they are really meritorious persons: he has demanded their release from prison unchastised. The Swiss Government, on the other hand, while treating the prisoners with conspicuous humanity, has insisted upon carrying out the process of law to vindicate its sovereign right over the canton as against the archaeological suzerain right, said to reside in the private family of King FREDERICK WILLIAM. The claim of Prussia has at last been sustained by Austria, Bavaria, and Baden, and it is said that France, if not our own Government, has also endeavoured to procure the release of the prisoners. The movement of the German Governments implies that Prussia may be supported in a resort to arms. What part then will France take? What England?

It is, we say, one of the first subjects to which the Administrative Reform Association should attend. That Association has established a species of administration for the people, classified in departments, in some degree corresponding to our Government, for the purpose of inquiry into the conduct of public business, but also, in some cases, to conduct properly that public business which the Government neglects. For instance, it will have agents abroad who would move for redress in cases of injury to private individuals. A MORRIS MOORE would have had some one to go to in default of Lord BLOMFELD. The Association has but just put forward an out-

line of its plan of action, and has necessarily excited great interest at once.

The Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution displays a more engaging side of the manufacturing character than in the case of **CULVERWELL**, **SIDEBOTTOM**, in the Court of Queen's Bench. At Huddersfield, we see employers, professional men, and public men like Lord GODERICH and Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, exerting themselves to support the mechanics and young men of the town who are training themselves by the pursuit of intellectual studies. The Institution teaches everything, from reading to logic; and Lord GODERICH was the distributor of prizes to those who had shown decided ability and zeal in pursuit of attainments; who were, in fact, whatever may be the rent of their house, or the price of their coat, rendering themselves, in the highest sense of the word, gentlemen.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, a manufacturer, who is rendering himself—well, we will not discuss that part of the subject. The statement of the facts will be quite enough. Mr. SIDEBOTTOM was the heir of a manufacturer, the successor to the factory, and apparently a man of great wealth. Since 1847, he has come up to town at various times to recreate himself. Amongst his recreations was a visit to the Berkeley Hotel, in Albemarle-street, where he had the pleasure of playing at hazard, and the advantage of meeting with a kind of gentleman who is called a 'bonnet,' and who plays with dice that are loaded, or such as are called 'despatches,' that is, dice with double-fours, double-fives, and double-sixes. In these innocent recreations the 'gent' lost, at various times, the gross amount of 25,000*l*. But at last he turns. He refuses payment of his own acceptance—of a bill which he had given, and which is found in the hands of Mr. **CULVERWELL**. Mr. **CULVERWELL** is a tailor; he has nothing to do with the gambling-house—oh, no! nothing! Yet the jury somehow come to the conclusion that Mr. SIDEBOTTOM is not legally, any more than morally, bound to pay this bill. He had already paid enough for the privilege of exhibiting to the public that phase of the manufacturing character. Perhaps even a SIDEBOTTOM might, just at this moment, think himself a richer man if he had given the 25,000*l*. to a Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### THE SUNDAY LEAGUE AT CANTERBURY.

A meeting convened by the agents of the London Sunday League was held at the Music Hall, Canterbury, one evening last week. Messrs. Loaden, J. B. Langley, William Tuxley, and Jones, attended as a deputation from the League, and supported a resolution in favour of opening certain places of amusement and instruction on the Sabbath, and of performing music publicly on the same day. The arguments advanced were of the usual character; and there was the usual amount of uproar and noisy opposition on the part of the Sabbatarian advocates. An amendment to the effect that the Sabbath is of Divine origin, and that to open places of worldly amusement and pleasure on that day, would be detrimental to the best interests of society, as well as to the cause of religion, was proposed by Mr. W. J. Cooper, and seconded by Mr. Bryant, a working man of London. On this being submitted to the meeting, it was declared by the chairman to be carried by a majority of three to one. The assemblage then dispersed in the midst of a great deal of exulting clamour from the Sabbatarians.

In the course of Mr. Loaden's speech in favour of the objects of the League, a great deal of uproar was occasioned by that gentleman declaring that "it was related in the Gospels that our blessed Lord was a Sabbath-breaker." At this, several dissenting ministers, who were present in great force, started to their feet, and vehemently protested by signs against the speaker being allowed to make any further remarks. Several cries were heard of "Turn him out!" "Blasphemy!" &c. At length Mr. Loaden was allowed to resume, when he explained that it was the Jewish Sabbath which Jesus broke, and he added that our Sunday cannot be held to be sacred, because it is observed on the first day of the week, instead of the seventh.

##### THE SOUTH LONDON SHOEBLACK SOCIETY.

This society held its second anniversary meeting on the evening of Friday week, in the National School-room, Borough-road. From the report it appeared that the society is progressing favourably, but that it is not yet self-supporting. A large proportion of the expenses had been defrayed out of the private purse of the Rev. Mr. Cadman, and an appeal was therefore made to the public of the vicinity for pecuniary help. After the delivery of several speeches, a handsome family Bible,

purchased by the savings of the boys, was presented to Mr. Joyce, as a testimony of the esteem and gratitude of the donors, who desired thus to manifest their sense of the efforts made by the recipient to instruct and train them for their start in life.

Prize medals were awarded to the two best boys in the society, and, as a proof of their industry in the public service, one was reported to have earned 37*l*. 1*s*. 10*d*., and placed 10*l*. 7*s*. 8*d*. in the savings bank; and the other had earned 24*l*. 16*s*. 6*d*., and placed 6*l*. 11*s*. 4*d*. in the bank. The total amount lodged by the boys in the savings bank this year was 103*l*., while in 1854 it was only 68*l*. At half-past nine o'clock the meeting broke up with the singing of the Doxology. A collection was made at the doors.

##### MR. ERNEST JONES'S SOIRÉES.

Mr. Ernest Jones's third political *soirée* took place on Tuesday night in St. Martin's Hall, when the lecturer selected for the subject of his address—"The State Church; its revenues how derived; its political and social influence on English history; its precepts and its practices." Mr. Jones observed:—"There are two objects in this world often identified, but as often widely different: the one is Religion, the other is the Church. He who attacks the latter is denounced as religion's enemy by the very enemy of that religion; for he is religion's greatest foe who throws the name of God around the dealings of a sordid craft. No battle is more dangerous than that with priestcraft, because no foe is so unscrupulous, so treacherous, so merciless, as the priest. If I charge the latter with inconsistency and crime, he answers by calling me an infidel, an Atheist. Sirs, I am neither; for I believe, if real Christianity were practised on this earth, not a tyrant would be trampling on a slave, and not a slave be cringing to a tyrant. I am no infidel, I am no Atheist; I try to be a Christian, but I like to get my religion at first hand, and I prefer living always in a church instead of visiting it merely once a week. My church is my house, my congregation is my family, my altar is my own fire-side."

The lecturer thus concluded:—"State Churchmen! what shall I say to you? Restore the enormous robbery of church lands to the people. Remove the golden calf from the temple of the Eternal God. Pay your schoolmasters more and your parsons less. Look less to the priest and more to the Deity. Fear less and love more. Look more to heaven and less to hell. Christianity is not a shadow, but a substance; Christianity is not the religion of the Future only, but of the Present too. Paradise, you say, has been on earth; then Paradise can be on earth again. It is you, priests! who prevent it. You darken the sky with your own shadow, and say 'God created the gloom.' But your reign of terror is nearly over. You drag-chains of the world! your links are breaking. Onward and upward is the march of nations."

In the course of the evening, there was vocal and instrumental music; and two new odes, the composition of Mr. Ernest Jones, were sung.

##### THE RUGBY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Rugby Agricultural Association took place on Wednesday afternoon at Rugby. The show of stock in the morning was extremely good, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the show-yard was visited by a very numerous company of the principal landowners and farmers of the county. In the evening, the members of the association, with their friends, dined together at the Eagle Hotel, under the presidency of Lord John Scott, who was supported by Messrs. Newdegate and Spooner, the county members. After a speech full of dreary witticisms from the chairman, which, however, had the effect of producing roars of laughter, Messrs. Newdegate and Spooner favoured the company with an exposition of their opinions on public affairs. These opinions were of the usual Protestant and Protectionist character.

##### INCOME-TAX AGITATION.

An agitation is being got up against the oppressive and unfair manner in which the income-tax is imposed. A deputation from Gloucester, headed by the town member (Mr. Price) and the Mayor, and arising out of the late meeting in that city, has waited upon Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of presenting the memorial. The Mayor said that the new surveyor had commenced his career by a reckless and unscrupulous surcharge upon all classes, coupled with the requirement, on appeal, of a number of returns, more vexatious and detailed than any previously demanded. Mr. Price, M.P., produced one of these precepts, and pointed out the difficulty of complying with it. For instance, during the late war his firm held in the various Russian Baltic ports several thousand pounds worth of timber which had been paid for, a part of which had been destroyed by the allied fleets, and the residue was every day liable to the same fate. By what rule, or upon what basis, he asked, could he pretend to value in his assets such property as this? He added, that his firm had had their charges yearly increased until they would submit no longer, and had determined to appeal. Mr. Kimberly followed, stating, from his own experience, that in many bankrupt or insolvent estates the defaulters had, during the period of their loss in trade, continued to pay income-tax, and even after they had called together their

creditors. Mr. Wilson, having heard each member of the deputation, said that of course it was impossible at head-quarters always to control the indirect and of some instances very great advantages had been taken by parties who had been left to assess themselves, and he came at 15,000*l*., but who had, upon information, been charged 18,000*l*., and eventually offered to compound at 18,000*l*. a year. He assured them that prompt attention should be paid to their representations, and promised to communicate with some of the heads of departments to which the subject referred.

A public meeting, called by the association recently formed for the reduction of this tax from 16*d*. to 7*d*. in the pound, was held on Monday evening at the London Tavern, Sir James Duke, M.P., presiding. The large room was densely crowded during the proceedings. The first motion, which was to the effect that the present war charge of 16*d*. in the pound should cease next April, that being the time originally proposed by Government, but afterwards altered, was proposed by Mr. Alderman Sydney, who gave a history of the tax, and was seconded by Mr. T. S. Goring, who accused the Government of taking advantage of "a miserable quibble" in extending the enhanced tax to April, 1868, the agreement being that it should be reduced a year after the conclusion of peace, "and, had it not happened that Russia and Turkey are so far apart, the ratifications would have been exchanged long before they were." Mr. Goring, however, contended that the moment the Treaty of Paris was signed, it took effect. Dr. John Watts, while agreeing that the income-tax was very unfairly levied, thought it would be wise to continue it, in order that the people might be further relieved from indirect taxes, which are much more onerous and expensive in the collection. The remarks of this gentleman, however, were received with such disapprobation that he could scarcely obtain a hearing. A great deal of discussion then ensued, the speakers taking widely different views as to the expediency of the total repeal of the tax; but at length the resolution was carried unanimously, as was another, proposed by Mr. V. Cole, denouncing the levying of the tax in the same way on property and income, and the inequalitarian nature of the mode of collection. Resolutions were then agreed to, with a view of preparing concurrent petitions to Parliament, and forming district associations in connexion with the present in all the large towns of England. Mr. Alderman Sydney was elected treasurer of the society, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

##### CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS.

The Very Rev. Dr. Archibald Campbell Tait, Bishop elect of the diocese of London, was consecrated last day morning by his Grace the Lord Primate, in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, occasion being taken at the same time to ordain the Rev. Henry Cotterill, M.A., to the Colonial Bishopric of Graham's Town, in succession to the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, deceased. There was a very large congregation, which resulted in some uneasy crowding; but the police speedily set matters to rights. Various ceremonies having been gone through, a sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Cotton, Master of Marlborough College. In this discourse, after remarking in effect that there was no alternative between submission to Papal authority and mutual toleration in non-essentials, the preacher continued:—

"The traces of compromise and a desire of comprehension are visible in the foundation, the constitution, and the services of our Church. While we sing the praises of God which Ambrose and Augustine chanted in the Basilica of Milan, and can trace our collects to the prayers and liturgies of the great Pope Gregory and Leo, we can yet refer other parts of our services to the influence, not only of English, but even of foreign Protestants. Yet, in spite of these undeniable facts, our present practice bears few signs of toleration and forbearance. The harmonious action of the Church—its warfare against wickedness and unbelief—is interrupted by unseemly disputes on forms and decorations, and doctrinal subtleties, and doubtful points of discipline are recklessly mooted and acrimoniously contested. No doubt it is said that this is but a sign of the earnest activity to which God in His mercy has roused the Church from the torpor of the last century, and that because men care more for faith and duty, therefore they are so much at variance among themselves. But we, then, acquiesce in the conclusion that Christian earnestness is incompatible with Christian charity, that our Lord's prayer for His followers can never be accomplished, that their unity is a fantastic dream? No melancholy and disheartening if in curing one evil we must rush into its opposite, and can never combine abundant forbearance with true piety and enthusiastic devotion." Having stated there were many points of doctrine and ritual observance on which a divergence might be tolerated, Mr. Cotton proceeded:—"While we think God for every new symptom of increased activity, we cannot but lament that less interest and excitement is shown in the struggle against positive wickedness than in some disputes about a cross, a vestment, or a ceremony. It is well for us to be mindful of the utter infidelity which is gradually spreading among the working classes in our cities, of the speculations of secularists, as they



called, who deny to man any hope beyond the grave—any duty except that of providing for the wants of this life, and against whom Christ's servants are bound to contend, not only in argument, but with the yet more efficacious weapons of Christian faith and love. Or, if we stand higher in the scale of society, to that commercial class which forms the pride and support of London, and holds the message contained in the name—'The City of Ships'—there also we must often lament the absence of any practical faith that Christ has redeemed the world from sin. As a commercial nation we have been startled and have felt degraded by the revelation of dishonesty among them; of reckless speculation, sometimes with the property of others; of ruin and misery widely spread through careless or dishonourable selfishness; while the hands of the princely merchant are only too faithfully initiated by the petty cheating and adulterated goods of the tradesman. Advancing yet further, we come to that class which seems to pride itself in contradicting the very words of our Lord by boastfully claiming the title of the world, and thus openly disregarding His warning not to love the world, nor the things of the world, and His repeated declaration that this love is incompatible with the love of the Father. . . . While we (the clergy) are turning away from the straight path of duty, the newspaper writer, the satirist, the popular novelist, are labouring to correct these evils which the Church was designed to cure; and some colour is given for the startling assertion of a modern historian, that the press is the chief spiritual power in England. Nor would we for a moment disparage its efforts; only we must believe that the voice of Christian kindness or grave rebuke, the sight of self-denying charity, the declaration of Christ's love for man, will do more to regenerate society than the sting of sarcasm or the denunciation of eloquent invective. And if it be true, as has been lately said, that London is less moral now than it was half a century ago, and that the hold of the Church on the mass of the people is ever diminishing, it is time for us to inquire whether the sight of its dissensions may not be the chief cause of this alienation, and to turn from the fruitless questions which tear it asunder to the duty of labouring with one heart and one mind as servants of Jesus Christ to stay the plague of guilt and wretchedness.

After the conclusion of this sermon (which, as the reader will have seen, contains some weighty truths), the rest of the ceremony was performed, and the congregation dispersed. A singular specimen of 'our civilization' is contained in a brief paragraph at the conclusion of the account in the daily papers:—"The detective police were represented by Mr. Robinson, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Hodges; and their presence had the effect of warning off several individuals, whose object in attending the service could scarcely have been misapprehended."

#### STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show no material alteration in any branch of business. At Manchester, the transactions have been limited, and a decline in prices has taken place corresponding with that in the raw material at Liverpool. The Birmingham advices mention that the iron-market is on the whole steady, although the high rate of discount increases the instances of underselling. Good orders have been received by the James Baines and the Lightning from Australia, and the general trades of the town are active. At Nottingham, it is still the quiet season, but there have been some considerable purchases of lace for America, and here also the Australian news is considered satisfactory. In the woollen districts there is a disposition to contraction, owing to the high prices of the staple and the state of the money-market. The existing dearthness of wool stimulates experiments to bring other materials into use as substitutes. The Irish linen-markets have been well maintained.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been continued activity. The number of ships reported inwards was 280, showing an increase of 51 over the previous week. These included 54 with cargoes of grain, rice, and flour; 23 with fruit of all sorts, 9 with sugar, and 1 with tea. The number of vessels cleared outward was 103, including 12 in ballast, showing a decrease of 25. In the Australian trade there is a considerable diminution in the number of vessels on the berth. The total is 45, being a decrease of 11 from the last account. Of those now loading, 6 are for Adelaide, 3 for Hobart Town, 3 for Launceston, 3 for Melbourne, 1 for Moreton Bay, 7 for New Zealand, 14 for Port Phillip, 6 for Sydney, 1 for Swan River, and 1 for Warrambool.—*Idem*.

Vice-Chancellor Kindersley delivered on Monday his judgment in the case of *Aitchison v. Lee*, arising out of the stoppage of the Royal British Bank. He pronounced in favour of the assignees, observing:—"In the present case, it was not the creditors, but merely the debtors themselves, who had commenced proceedings in Chancery for the settlement of their claims against each other. He (the Vice-Chancellor) could not admit that it was impossible to have concurrent proceedings in Chancery and in Bankruptcy against the same company. It was said, that, inasmuch as Mr. Harding, the official manager, was in possession of the property of the bank, before

the adjudication, his title could not be disturbed, because the Act specially declared that all contracts and dealings with a bankrupt prior to his bankruptcy should be valid. But there was no ground for such an argument; for how could it be maintained that an order to wind up a man's affairs, which order was obtained by himself, was a dealing or contract with him? If the legislature had intended that the appointment of an interim manager should invalidate the legal title of an assignee in bankruptcy, it would have said so in clear and explicit language. But it had not, and the Court was bound upon the construction of the Acts of Parliament before referred to, to hold that the legal title was vested in the official assignee. The next question which the court had to consider was, whether there were any grounds upon which it ought to interfere with that legal title of the assignee in bankruptcy. He thought there was not, for he believed that the distribution of the assets among the creditors would be more efficacious in the Court of Bankruptcy than under the winding-up proceedings. An inquiry should take place as to what expenses had been incurred by Mr. Harding in collecting and realizing the assets of the bank in order that those expenses might be repaid to him. The injunction granted *ex parte* against the official assignee must be dissolved, and possession of all the property, &c., of the bank given up to the official assignee. With respect to the rule nisi to commit the official assignee and the messenger in bankruptcy for a contempt of court, in having interfered with Mr. Harding's possession, that rule would be discharged, as the parties had expressed their regret for what they had done."

Upon the application of Sir Fitzroy Kelly, who appeared for Mr. Harding, an appeal to the Lords Justices was authorized.

#### ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

THE inquest on the bodies of the persons who met their death in the recent railway collision on the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway, has terminated in the following verdict:—"We find the deceased persons were killed at Dunkitt-siding, on the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway, by the Kilkenny midday mail to Waterford coming into collision with the ballast-train in such siding, in consequence of the points of the siding having been unlawfully and improperly left open; and that such points were in the particular care of Michael Brien, ganger, in charge of the ballast-train, who neglected to see them closed. Our finding is that of manslaughter against the said Michael Brien, through whose wilful and unlawful neglect the deaths have occurred; and that no blame can be attached to any of the officers of the traffic department on the line, whose driver and fireman used every effort in their power to prevent the catastrophe." Brien was removed in custody, and is committed to Kilkenny Gaol for trial at the ensuing Assizes.

An investigation has been instituted at Paris into the sudden and mysterious death of a young woman when in company with an elderly man at a restaurant on the Boulevard de Sébastopol. The cabinet in which the two persons were placed to take their dinner being rather cold, a small portable *calorifère* was brought in, containing burning embers and charcoal. As long as the door was frequently opened to allow the waiters to enter with the dinner, the quality of the air was not sensibly deteriorated; but, when the door remained shut, the carbonic gas disseminated itself and produced a fatal effect. The man has since so far improved as to leave no doubt of his ultimate recovery. The body of the woman has been given up to her friends.

The Correctional Tribunal of the Seine last week condemned a grocer and spirit merchant, named Lebronsard, to a fortnight's imprisonment for having caused a very serious accident and inflicted severe injuries upon several passengers in the *Chaussée Clignancourt*, Montmartre, by an infringement of the police regulations. He had placed a very large barrel of spirits of wine on the pavement before his shop, and was in the act of drawing off its contents with a syphon, when the liquid took fire from a candle, which was held too close to it. The barrel exploded, and two men, a young woman, and three children, who happened to be walking by, were burnt in a shocking manner. The woman and two of the children died a few hours afterwards.

Three young men have been drowned off the harbour of West Hartlepool by the upsetting of a coble. The inquest on the bodies of Mr. Hands and Mr. Hicks, who met their death by the collision near Nantyderry on the 12th instant, was resumed on Friday week and Saturday at Abergavenny. Evidence was then tendered to disprove the charges of neglect made against the company, and Mr. Humphreys cross-examined the witnesses with a view to show that, even on a line properly made and kept, an engine run on the curve described, with a broken spring, at twenty-five miles an hour, must necessarily run off. The inquiry was again adjourned.

A verdict of "Accidental death" has been returned by the coroner's jury in the case of John Richards, the fireman who was killed in the recent mishap on the Western Valleys branch of the Monmouthshire Railway. There does not seem to have been anything defective in the engine or the state of the line.

An accident, attended with loss of life, occurred on the London and North Western Railway on Monday night,

near Warrington. The mail train from Scotland, when near the Winwick Station (situated between the Warrington Junction and the Warrington Station), ran off the rail, and became embedded in the soil. The fireman was killed on the spot, and the engine-man has had one of his arms crushed to atoms. None of the passengers have been dangerously or seriously injured. The accident created great alarm in the locality at the time, and the traffic was interrupted for a considerable period.

The body of a gentleman was found on the London and North Western Railway line, near Newton Junction, on Tuesday morning. It was recognized by the officials, and found to be that of Mr. Robinson, residing at Rainhill. As he was a contractor with the railway company for conveyance daily to his residence at Rainhill, it is supposed that he must have fallen asleep, and passed Rainhill, and that, on the train slackening at the Newton Junction (where there is a rounding) he stepped off, and coming into collision with some waggons on the siding, was killed on the spot. The body was not at all mutilated.

Another collision on the London and Great Northern Railway took place on Wednesday morning at Leighton Buzzard. A goods train from Liverpool, consisting of two engines and upwards of forty trucks, heavily laden with cattle, ran into a passenger train while the latter was stopping at the station. The driver of the goods train thought the line was clear, as no signal had been exhibited. No serious injury was done to any one, but the carriages suffered considerably.

John Gough, an Irish lad, employed at the Birdholme Colliery, near Chesterfield, has been jerked out of the machine by which he was being lowered to the bottom of the shaft. He fell to the bottom, and death resulted instantaneously. It would seem that the engine-driver below started the machine before the lad was fairly in it. The inquest has been adjourned, in order that the Government Inspector of Mines may be in attendance.

A singular escape from death has occurred to a Mr. Hollingsworth, an innkeeper at Wissett. He was repairing a well on his own premises, when he overbalanced himself, and fell head foremost down the cavity. In his descent he grasped hold of the chain which hung from above, and descended safely to the bottom, which is at a depth of twenty feet from the surface. His shouts for assistance brought some men to the spot, and he was drawn up, somewhat alarmed, but not hurt.

Miss Ricardo, daughter of Mr. Ricardo, M.P., has been thrown from her horse at Windsor, and sustained a fracture of the thigh. She is progressing favourably.

Mr. George Grenville Fortescue, of Bonconnoe, Cornwall, has met with his death under very distressing circumstances. He had been cruising in the Mediterranean, with his cousins, Lord and Lady Drogheda, in their yacht, the *Fancy*, during the summer and autumn. They were on their homeward voyage on the afternoon of Sunday, the 2nd inst., when, after taking part in the services of the day, he went up into the rigging for cooler air or amusement, as he had often done before; but suddenly, either from some panic or giddiness, he fell on deck from a height of thirty feet. He was taken up senseless, and he had received such injuries that he died the same night. The vessel, which was then about a hundred and seventy miles off Algiers, put into that place, and his afflicted cousins buried Mr. Fortescue in the cemetery of the town.

#### IRELAND.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—The Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer delivered the unanimous verdict of that court on Friday week in the long-pending case of "Carroll v. Kennedy"—a case arising out of the Tipperary Bank. The plaintiff demurred to the plea of the defendant, whose object was to bring the bank within the meaning of the Act 33rd of George II., and thus to place its affairs under the administration of the Court of Chancery; it being contended that the provisions of the 6th George IV., known as "the Joint-Stock Companies' Winding-up Act," were not applicable. The Court dissented from these views, and stated that there was nothing to prevent the plaintiff from proceeding in the present action, and issuing execution. The demurrer was therefore allowed with costs.—At the sittings of the court on Tuesday morning, the Lord Chancellor gave judgment in the important case of *O'Flaherty v. McDowell*. The petition was for the purpose of removing the affairs of the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank from under the Winding-up Act, and placing them under the old act of the 33rd George II., on the ground that the former act was intended solely for the settlement of a joint-stock concern as between the shareholders, and did not give relief or security to the creditors. The Chancellor dismissed the petition without costs. He decided that the 33rd George II. did not apply. The proper course was to proceed through the official manager.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.—In addition to the hammer which was found in the bed of the canal, a razor has been discovered in the same place. It does not seem to be marked with blood; but, as it was not in the least rusty, it is evident that it cannot have been in the water very long. It is said to be undergoing a microscopic investigation. The efforts for the detection of the murderer or murderers proceed with unweariness.

assiduity; all the officials are placed under the surveillance of the police; and the attention of the constables is more especially gathered round four of them. That the crime was committed by some one or more persons connected with the office is every day considered more certain. Great indignation is expressed at the Government not offering a reward.—It appears that the two previous cashiers of the railway were dismissed for deficiencies in their accounts for which it now seems likely they were accountable; and that Mr. Little, shortly after his appointment, missed 50*l*. The company, however, were so highly impressed with his integrity, that they did not dismiss him; and he took additional precautions. The depredator being thus baffled has, it is thought, slain Mr. Little, partly out of revenge, and partly to secure more plunder.

**THE EDUCATION QUESTION.**—The Dublin Protestant Association has unanimously adopted the following resolutions:—"That, inasmuch as all Whig interference relative to the education of the country of late years has been either to secularize it altogether or to make it subservient to the teaching of Popery, this meeting would beg to call public attention to the proceedings of the Endowed Schools Commission, fearing, as we do, that the funds originally intended for the promotion of Protestant education in Ireland shall be partly, if not entirely, wrested from the objects originally intended by the donors, and made instrumental to the propagation of the Popish system in this country. That the recent disclosures, by means of the correspondence between Sir Robert Kane and the secretary of the Popish seminary known as the 'Catholic University,' are additional evidences of the insidious attempts that are being made to foist Popery upon this country; and that, while we pronounce the Romish University as an illegal institution, we esteem Dr. Kane in the matter as another instance of the total unfitness of Roman Catholics to hold places of trust and power under the Queen of these realms."

#### AMERICA.

**RUMOUR** has thus mapped out the Buchanan cabinet:—General Cass, Secretary of State; Governor Toney, Secretary of the Navy; Colonel Richardson, Postmaster-General; Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury; Jesse D. Bright, Secretary of the Interior; the Attorney-General is not nominated.

The Hon. J. M. Clayton, the American Minister who negotiated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, died on the 9th after a protracted illness. According to the *Herald*, "the general opinion that he had been overreached by Sir Henry Bulwer affected his spirits; and it is said he was several times driven to his bed by illness produced by anxiety of mind."

A great conflagration has occurred at Syracuse, devastating the city, causing a loss of nearly one million dollars, and rendering numbers houseless.

The demand for money at New York is still active; but the general belief appears to be that the worst of the autumnal stringency is over.

The following is a list of the gentlemen elected to the Legislative Council in Upper and Lower Canada:—**UPPER CANADA.**—Rideau—Hon. P. M. Vankoughnet, Ministerial. Queen's—Mr. Simpson, Opposition. Burlington—Dr. Smith, Opposition. Trent—Mr. Murney, Independent. Sangeen—Mr. Patton, Independent. Western—Colonel Prince, Ministerial.—**LOWER CANADA.**—Laurentide—Mr. Latierriere, Ministerial. Salabery—Mr. Renaud, Ministerial. Rougemont—Mr. Desaulles, Opposition. Wellington—Mr. H. Smith, Opposition. Mille Isle—Mr. Masson, Independent. Lauzon—Mr. Duchesnay, Ministerial.

The mechanics employed on the Great Western Railway, Canada, have suspended work, on account of the harsh conduct of a Mr. Braid, who had been sent out by the English board of directors as locomotive superintendent.

The telegraph brings intelligence of a fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 5th inst., by which over two hundred tenements were destroyed. The loss amounts to 50,000 dollars.

#### THE COLONIES.

**THE NATIVE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.**—The feud between the natives was at the last dates raging with great violence, and a serious encounter had taken place between the two hostile tribes of the Ngatiruanui and Ngatiawa. Five appear to have been killed on both sides. The former tribe had eight wounded, the latter three—at least, this is the only loss that either will admit of. The encounter took place near the European boundary, but no alarm or anxiety appears to exist on the part of the colonists.—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette.*

**THE TASMANIA GOLD FIELDS.**—The accounts from the newly-discovered gold fields at Fingal are much more satisfactory than could have been anticipated. Notwithstanding the adverse season of the year, the reports of the progress of the mining parties are becoming more constant, and nuggets had been found. The result of the survey instituted by the authorities, as far as it had been carried out, had produced very favourable indications that the island possessed several auriferous districts.—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette.*

**THE AUSTRALIAN DUFFY TESTIMONIAL.**—The Duffy testimonial has been presented. The original plan was

to raise a fund to purchase a freehold qualification to enable him to stand for the Lower House (2000*l*). Some of Mr. Duffy's admirers in Sydney organized a committee to collect subscriptions there. Launceston, in Tasmania, joined, and the result is a total of 5000*l*. Half has been laid out in a house and grounds, and the other half, with the title-deeds of the property purchased, has been presented to Mr. Duffy.—*Times Melbourne Correspondent.*

**INDIA.**—We learn by the last mail from India that final arrangements are in the course of execution for the embarkation of the expeditionary corps to the Persian Gulf. The fleet was expected to sail on the 10th of November. The cash balances in the Government treasuries of India are stated by the *Gazette* to have been 13,000,000*l*. sterling—an inexplicably large amount. At Bombay, the money market was rather tighter, and the banks had raised their rates of discount one per cent. Government and other securities were lower than before. Freights continued high. The import market was steady. A good harvest was reported from almost all parts of the interior.

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

##### FRANCE.

The *Presse*, replying to an article in a London ministerial journal, which intimated a few days since that England might probably take possession of the Isle of Karak, near the mouth of the Euphrates, as a station to be used as a basis of operations against Persian aggression, says that Karak belongs to France, under a treaty concluded in 1769 between M. Pyralot, French consul at Bassora, and Kerim Khan, "the wisest sovereign, perhaps, that Persia has had in modern times." The writer admits that the fact is not generally known.

"A great piece of domestic news," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "is that M. Emile de Girardin has sold his interest in the *Presse* to M. Milhaud the banker, after a negotiation of only three days. M. de Girardin was the founder and principal proprietor of the paper. He possessed forty 100ths of the shares, and had a salary of 30,000*fr*. as *redacteur* in chief. The terms are, for the forty shares 800,000*fr*., and for the editorship 150,000*fr*., making altogether the very handsome sum of 950,000*fr*., which M. de Girardin will put in his pocket. After the example of persons in meaner callings, he enters into a covenant not to exercise his trade of a journalist in Paris."

Forty-six persons, belonging to the religious sect of the Moniers, a kind of methodists, were tried before the Correctional Police of Lyons on Thursday week for having held meetings in defiance of the orders given by the authorities. It appears (says the *Morning Star*) that the Moniers, who are distinguished by the severity of their religious doctrines and discipline, are spreading rapidly in France, and reckon amongst their members many rich and influential persons.

The *Assemblée Nationale* says:—"Our readers no doubt remember that the Legislative Body, on the 2nd of July last, voted a law which authorized the inscription in the great book of the public debt of Three per Cent. Stock of 200,000*fr*. each for the heirs of the female branches of King Louis Philippe's family affected by the decrees of the 22nd January, 1852. We believe that the French Government having notified through a diplomatic channel to the parties interested the promulgation of the law of the 2nd July, the Duke Alexander of Wurtemberg, in the name of his son, a minor, and the Duke Augustus of Saxe-Coburg, in the name of the Princess Clementine d'Orleans, his wife, have refused to profit by the provisions of the law."

The Marquis de Turgot left Paris on Wednesday morning for Madrid, to resume his functions as Ambassador of the Emperor of the French at the Court of Queen Isabella.

##### PRUSSIA.

On the opening of the Diet, a bill will be laid before the House of Representatives for the purpose of raising a revenue on all railroad traffic in the Prussian dominions. The amount of the tax proposed to be levied is ten per cent. on their gross receipts. On the other hand, they are henceforward to be allowed to raise their prices both for goods and passenger traffic as high as they like.

Mr. Morris Moore, an Englishman, known in this country for his contests with Sir Charles Eastlake on the management of the National Gallery, was arrested at Berlin last Saturday night, and detained for some time by the police. Our representative there, Lord Blomfield, lost no time in bringing the matter before the notice of Baron von Manteuffel, and Mr. Morris was set at liberty next morning. The cause of his arrest was that he had brought with him from England letters of introduction from political refugees in London to men in Berlin who are known to be disaffected towards the Government. His lodgings were accordingly searched, but nothing alarming was found at them. It appears that the police behaved with brutal and insulting violence; and Mr. Moore has published a very truculent letter which he addressed to Lord Blomfield, accusing him of dilatoriness in the matter.

##### SPAIN.

"The question of the fusion with the family of Don Carlos," says a letter from Madrid, dated the 19th inst., "is advancing towards a solution. It is the desire of Russia, as clearly manifested by Count Benckendorf. The

Queen wishes to treat it as an affair in which her family only, and not the nation, is in any way concerned. A few of her Ministers are opposed to this manner of viewing the question; but the Queen laughs at her Ministers, and is determined to settle the matter directly and without any intervention, save that of private agents speaking in her own name and on her own behalf." The same writer states that the late insurrection at Malaga was got up by the police, at the instigation of the Ministers, who desire to frighten the Queen into authorizing severe measures of coercion. The Governor of Madrid, it is said, declined having anything to do with the matter, and gave in his resignation in consequence. The new Governor is a creature of Narvaez. The authorities are about to augment the secret police by two hundred men.

"Some days since," continues the writer already quoted, "a *coup d'état* in favour of an Absolutist system was prepared. The Court insisted that it should go on, but it was assured by a certain ex-Minister that it was better to wait for the meeting of the Cortes and a Parliamentary check sustained by General Narvaez. The Court, however, is every day more anxious for it, and the person who now possesses the greatest influence (a son of a well-known Carlist of high rank), and the King, urged by the clergy, agree in opinion with the rest of the Court. It is known that the Government is on the best understanding with the King of Naples, who is the channel of communication of the Pope; and that an active correspondence is carried on between Madrid, Naples, and St. Petersburg."

Numerous arrests have been made within the last few days at Madrid; but it is said they have reference to other than political motives, as the persons apprehended are mostly of bad character, and the Government has declared its intention of proceeding against all such vagrants to the utmost extremity of the law. It is not improbable, however, that this is a mere pretext.

Several of the Madrid journals complain that the state of siege, which was said to be raised, is in fact merely transferred from the purely military authorities to the hands of the prefects, and it is not even raised at all in some parts of the country.

Several arrests of suspected individuals have been made at Malaga since the outbreak, and the Ministerial journals assert that important discoveries have been made by the police. The entire population has been disarmed. Nine individuals are already condemned to be shot, and several more will probably meet the same fate. None of the wounded soldiers have died.

There were some evidences of sympathy at Granada when the intelligence of the affair at Malaga first arrived; but these were promptly repressed by the authorities, and all has been perfectly quiet since.

The *Gazette* publishes a Royal decree authorizing the Minister of Finance to purchase in foreign markets corn and flour to the amount of 60,000,000 reals, in order to bring down the prices in the Peninsula. The least stuffs so procured will be admitted into Spanish ports free of duty.

##### RUSSIA.

The Grand-Duke Nicholas has had a son born to him.

M. Perowsky, who replaced Count de Kisselef as minister of the Crown domains in Russia, has just died at St. Petersburg.

The last circular of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Gortschakoff, is said to be couched in moderate and conciliatory language; but Russia abandons neither her opinions nor her claims on Belgrad, and she calls for the meeting of a Conference, to the decision of which she says she will defer unhesitatingly.

Winter has set in on the Neva this year with unusual severity, and at a remarkably early period.

##### SWITZERLAND.

M. James Fazy, of Switzerland, has addressed a letter to the editor of the *Siecle* on the subject of certain allegations made in several Paris journals with respect to Neuchâtel. The writer positively denies that the treaty of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 has any bearing on the subject of Neuchâtel, inasmuch as Switzerland took no part in that congress; and moreover asserts that Prussia has no right to that canton, as the King of Prussia, on the 15th February, 1806, ceded the principality of Neuchâtel to France, with all the other districts and places which did not actually form part of Prussia Proper.

The text of the report on the Prussian proposition laid before the German Diet, and which the Diet unanimously adopted, has been published. The resolutions consist in the Federal Diet giving in its adherence to the protocol of 1852, and instructing the Ambassadors in Switzerland to recommend to the Federal Council the release of the prisoners, and the meeting of Prussia half way in her wish to effect an arrangement concerning the question of sovereignty.

"The Swiss Federal Council," says the *Presse*, "has reduced to a single battalion the corps of occupation sent into the canton of Neuchâtel."

Prince Alfred of England, after having visited different places on the Continent, has arrived at Geneva, where he is to pass the winter.

The present state of the Neuchâtel question is thus summed up by the *Times* Berlin correspondent:—"The von Sydow, the representative of Prussia at Bern, had an audience of the President of the Confederation on the 17th instant, and on the following day delivered in a



him the Prussian despatch demanding the liberation of the prisoners as a preliminary to all negotiations. This despatch was backed by the representatives of Austria, Bavaria, and Baden, in writing, and the subject of the liberation of the prisoners was taken into consideration by the Federal Council on the 19th. At the audience that Herr von Sydow had of the President on the 18th, the question of the sovereignty of the King of Prussia in Neuchâtel was not touched upon; the business of that audience was confined to the subject of the prisoners, with regard to which the *Frankfurter Journal* expresses the confident opinion that the Federal Council will not accede to the demand in its present shape. The offer to liberate the prisoners on condition that the King would also, at the same time, renounce his claims to the sovereignty of the Principality appears to have some time back been made on the one side, and refused on the other; and it was in consequence of this refusal that General Dufour was sent to Paris, for it turns out now not to be true that the Emperor Louis Napoleon invited the General to come to him at Paris on the subject."

The Swiss Federal Government is resolved, in the present uncertain state of affairs, to take every precaution that may lie within its power to protect itself to the utmost against any possible contingency. It is strengthening the fortifications, organizing its forces, and placing everything in readiness. We find it stated that the Federation can bring into the field as many as 162,943 men and 700 guns. In case of an emergency, also, it could call out the cantonal troops, consisting of upwards of 40,000 men, and would probably (says a writer from Paris) recall the 12,000 Swiss who form the nucleus of the army of the King of Naples. Switzerland could probably put on foot a force of about 214,000 men.

General Dufour left Paris last Saturday evening for Rome, to lay before the Federal Council the result of his mission to the French Government.

The Federal Council unanimously refuses to comply with the demand of Prussia to set at liberty the Neuchâtel prisoners. The Council declares, moreover, that it is ready to negotiate, and that it is willing to reopen the relations of friendship and good neighbourhood with Prussia. Preparations are being made that justice may take its course with regard to the prisoners.

#### AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress arrived at Trieste on the 20th inst.

The "General-Convention" of the Lutheran "Montan-Superintendentenz" met at Pesth on the 19th inst., and discussed the merits of the Ministerial draught for a constitution for the Protestant Church. Several of the provisions they objected to. The Hungarian Protestants are making a stand for their liberties; and the members of the same community in Bavaria have entered a formal protest against the recent ordinances of the Supreme Consistory. But the bigotry of the Roman-Catholics does not relax. The Austrian "Field Bishop" Leonhart, has forbidden Catholic field chaplains to give their blessing to a dying soldier who is a Protestant, and has decreed that the heretic shall be buried without any service whatever if a Protestant clergyman be not present. The Bishop of Linz has ordered that all those Austrian soldiers who go out shooting on Sundays and holidays shall be excommunicated. These and other instances of bigoted oppression contribute to make the Concordat every day more and more unpopular.

Jellachich, the Ban of Croatia, is seriously ill at Agram.

It is now denied that Sir Hamilton Seymour intends to accompany the Emperor of Austria in his Italian tour. Sir Hamilton still remains at Vienna.

#### ITALY.

"The King of the Two Sicilies," says a letter from Naples in the *Cattolico* of Genoa, "has just pardoned two political prisoners—Pasquale de Rosa, condemned in 1851 to nineteen years' hard labour in irons; and Vincenzo Farina, condemned to twenty years of the same punishment. The sentence of the latter had been commuted by the King, on the 12th of March, 1855, into six years of exile; and on the 18th of June following his exile had been again commuted into imprisonment in his own house."

The Marquis Giorgio Pallavicino has written to the *National*, of Brussels, to deny the truth of an assertion to the effect that he advocates Muratism in Naples.

The *Preussische Correspondenz* explains that the commercial treaty, so frequently alluded to in the press as having been lately concluded between Russia and Naples, is nothing more than a form of declaration exchanged by the two Governments on October 3, similar to the declarations that have been exchanged this year between the Neapolitan and all other Governments with which Naples is connected by commercial treaties. These declarations have reference solely to the equalization of the footing on which the direct and indirect navigation of the two countries stand to each other.

"Sir Hamilton Seymour," says a letter from Vienna, in the *New Wurzburger Gazette*, "recently gave to our cabinet the positive assurance that England would not undertake anything with regard to the Neapolitan affair, of a nature to serve the projects of a revolutionary party in Italy, or to disturb the tranquillity of the peninsula." In another letter, printed in the *Weser Gazette*, we

read:—"A pamphlet, published in French, is handed about in diplomatic circles here, which contains an apology for the conduct of Naples, and indicates some reforms which that Government might effect. Among them are mentioned the application of the military conscription to Sicily, the formation of military colonies for veterans and invalid soldiers, the calling in of the copper coinage, the substitution of *chefs d'affaires* for ambassadors, changes in the customs tariff, the release of Poerio, &c. It is thought that this pamphlet emanates from an official source."

Queen Christina of Spain arrived in Genoa on the morning of the 20th, on board the *Capitole* steamer, from Marseilles, travelling under the title of Countess of Quinto. After visiting the town, she re-embarked for Rome.

"The Minister Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic, M. de Busseenthal," says the *Times* correspondent, "visited Naples two or three weeks since on some diplomatic mission, and curiosity was awakened to know the cause of it. From all I can gather, the object seems to have been to request the Government to give up a portion of the criminals condemned for life, to the number of some thousands, to be shipped off to his country." The request was rather contemptuously refused.

A man, named Serego, employed at the Grand Hospital, Milan, has been arrested and sent to Mantua by the police, who have some fear of a Mazzinian plot. Some other persons were admonished, and several houses were searched.

#### BELGIUM.

A storm has blown with such violence on the coast at Ostend as to make a wide breach, which at one time threatened the town. The soldiers of the garrison, however, worked hard during the nights of the 12th and 13th, and, by means of heaping in sand and turf, the gap was filled up.

A very warm discussion, which is for the present adjourned, has taken place in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. It arose on the *Projet d'Adresse*, and had reference to the paragraph relating to the system of instruction in the Universities of the State. According to the Brussels correspondent of the *Morning Post*, "it has raised an issue which it is apprehended will terminate seriously, both as regards the position of the Government and the general peace of the country. The Minister of the Interior opened the debate by placing before the Chamber the correspondence that had taken place between the Rector of the University of Ghent, Professor Laurent, and himself, with the view of defending himself from the charge lately made against him, to the effect that, while publicly proclaiming the right of the professors to the most perfect liberty of opinion in their writings and publications, he had privately censured M. Laurent, one of the Professors of the University of Ghent, for publishing a certain work, entitled 'Etudes Historiques.'" To this charge the Minister replied by what was in fact an admission. He said that Professor Laurent had published a book which attacked the religion of the country, and therefore he had urged that he should be censured. In the second day's debate, last Saturday, the Minister said that he was of opinion that science in the Universities of the State should be independent of every dogma, but that at the same time it ought to show its respect for every kind of religious worship.

#### TURKEY.

Aali Pacha and Redschid Pacha were not able to agree, and accordingly the former resigned, after only being in office four-and-twenty hours. It would appear, however, that he has since returned.

Arrangements are just now being made in the Dobrukscha for the return of about 1400 Bulgarian families, who had fled into Bessarabia at the time of the taking of Matschin and the siege of Silistria.

Six hundred wooden houses have been destroyed by a fire at Pera. The authorities and the Sisters of Charity have taken charge of the families who were left without an asylum. Another extensive fire has broken out at Adrianople. A catastrophe at Rhodes, occasioned by lightning having struck the immense store of gunpowder which was placed in the vaults belonging to the Ancient Knights, has destroyed the whole Turkish quarter so completely that only three children were saved.

The *Journal de Constantinople* states that a Russian Company in the Black Sea has purchased forty steam-vessels.

#### GERMANY.

The Mecklenburg Diet has rejected the proposal to join the Zollverein.

In the sitting of the Diet on the 20th inst., the representatives of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, and Baden, informed the Assembly that the Envoys of their respective Courts at Berne had taken steps in reference to the Federal resolution with respect to Neuchâtel.

#### HOLLAND.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has announced to the Second Legislative Chamber that the Government of Holland has given in its assent to the principles of Maritime Law which were laid down by the Congress of Paris.

#### GREECE.

The Minister of Finances of Greece, M. Rangabé,

has forwarded a document to M. Tricoupi, the Greek Minister in London, with a view to its being laid before the English Government. This document gives a statement of the affairs of the kingdom of Greece at the present moment, and seeks to show that that country is worthy of the continued support and encouragement of the great European Powers, and that its internal condition has been greatly misrepresented of late.

#### DENMARK.

Another Pan-Scandinavian demonstration has taken place at Copenhagen, where the students of the neighbouring Swedish University of Lund gave a concert, followed by a banquet, at which the chief toast was, "To the union of the North, which demands not merely a moral, but a political brotherhood." All the speeches took the same complexion.

The Danish Government has sent Count Moltke to Paris, to request the Emperor Napoleon to mediate between Denmark and the two great German Powers in the Holstein-Lauenburg question.

#### PORTUGAL.

The political elections in Lisbon have gone against the Government, the Radicals having obtained a majority. The result in the provinces will probably be different.

#### THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The European Commission of the Danube was officially opened on the 4th inst., under the provisional presidency of the Prussian Commissioner Bitter. At that meeting, the Turkish Commissioner, Omar Pacha, was appointed president in his quality of representative of the Sultan, sovereign of Moldavia. It was decided, on the proposal of the French Commissioner, that a French gunboat stationed at Galatz should proceed to the banks of Aljani, at the mouth of the Sulina, and that the Turkish war-steamer off Sulina should leave for the same spot, to render the river once more navigable, and remove the obstructions which exist.

In defiance of an order to the contrary from the Kaimakan of Wallachia, Prince Stirbey, the ex-Hospodar, suddenly made his appearance in Bucharest, summoned the members of his defunct Government, and caused them to reply to some accusations made against him and themselves by M. Soutzo and Soutzaki, the Wallachian Minister of Finances, who has published a memoir, in which he accuses the late Hospodariate of financial malversation. Copies of this exculpatory document have been sent to the different Consuls-General.

## OUR CIVILIZATION.

### THE BULLION ROBBERY.

A FURTHER examination into the charges against Pierce and Burgess took place at the Mansion House on Monday. Evidence to very great length was received; but it did little more than confirm the statements already made by Agar and Fanny Kay. Those witnesses were not again examined. In the testimony of W. Stearn, the landlord of the White Hart public house, Thomas-street, Borough, where Burgess was in the habit of going, some light was thrown on the manner in which the latter disposed of his share of the spoil. "On the 17th or 18th of February last," said Mr. Stearn, "I received a parcel, which was handed to me by my barmaid, named Sarah Thompson. In consequence of what she said, I put the parcel in my cash-box and left it there. On the following night, Burgess asked me if I had a parcel for him. I invited him into my bar-parlour, and then opened the cash-box and gave him the parcel in the same state in which I had received it from Sarah Thompson. He opened it in my presence. It contained several bank-notes, apparently valuable ones, as I could see they were not 5s. ones. I asked him why he had not made me acquainted with its value. He said he had not because he did not think it necessary, as it was perfectly safe in my hands. It was the savings of years, and he wished me to invest it for him. I suggested that he should open a banking account; but he declined that, and said he knew nothing of money matters, and should be better satisfied if I would invest it in the best way I could; and it occurred to me to take the money to Reed and Co., my brewers, who would allow five per cent., and he agreed to that. The next morning I so deposited the money, the amount being 500l., all in Bank of England notes, and received an acknowledgment for it in the usual way of business. It was entered in a book, which I gave to Burgess, who kept it a few days, to show it to his friends, and then returned it to me. I have since received the interest on that money, and paid it to Burgess."

The prisoners were remanded to next Monday.

It will be remembered that Mr. Lewis, while cross-examining Fanny Kay, on the previous Monday, failed in an attempt to draw from her a statement of her present residence, and threatened, as his only resource, to "watch her home." He did not, however, fulfil his threat, but saw her at the close of the examination in a private room, to which she had retired, and where he promised to leave her unmolested.

At the close of the proceedings last Monday, Mr. Bodkin, who appears for the prosecution, brought under the notice of the Lord Mayor a fact which had occurred on the preceding Monday. A man who was in the body of the court, near the dock, leant forward, and whispered some words, which were not heard by the bystanders,

to Pierce, who answered, "Make away with them—destroy them!" A workman and a police inspector standing by heard this; but they disagreed as to the time when it occurred. Dackombe, the man who had whispered to the prisoner, was also in the court last Monday, and he denied the truth of the charge. He added that he had known Pierce, but was not interested in the present case. The Lord Mayor said he would take measures to prevent such communications in future.

#### CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The November sessions of this court were opened on Monday, when the first case brought forward was that of John Pringle, a young man who was charged with sending a letter to the Bank of London (on which he thought he had some claims), threatening to make disclosures which would be prejudicial to the concern. His counsel now appeared and offered an apology, stating that the young man regretted what he had done, and felt that there was no justification for it. The charge was therefore withdrawn, and a verdict of Not Guilty was returned.

Selina Elizabeth Arnett and Emma Foreman, two respectable-looking young girls, surrendered to take their trial upon a charge of stealing a 20*l*. note and six sovereigns, the property of John Biggs Holdsworth, a gentleman living in Clement's-inn. The facts of the case appeared in this journal when the prisoners were before the police magistrate. Both were now found Guilty, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Robert Charles Wyatt, a well-dressed, gentlemanly-looking young man, who was stated in the calendar to be nineteen years of age, was placed at the bar to plead to two indictments charging him with uttering a cheque for 9*l*., and another for 250*l*., with intent to defraud the London and Westminster Bank. He pleaded "Guilty" to both charges, and was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Charles Buller was charged with setting fire to the house of a gentleman living at Peckham Rye. A policeman discovered him one night in the grounds of this house, the officer's attention having been attracted by a light which came from the dwelling, and which was afterwards extinguished. He took the man into custody with some difficulty, and afterwards discovered that a hole had been burnt through one of the shutters of the house, and that this had been enlarged with a knife with a view to a burglarious entrance into the house. The man now denied all knowledge of the fire, and said he had gone into the grounds in order to find some shelter for the night. He was found Guilty; and the Common Sergeant ordered that sentence of death should be recorded. This, however, of course, is only nominal.

Frederick Huggins, a youth of seventeen, was charged with stealing property belonging to his employers, warehousemen in the City. He was found Guilty and sentenced to six months' hard labour.—John Bons pleaded Guilty to charges of housebreaking and larceny at the Sailors' Home, Poplar. A great many robberies had been committed at the establishment, and several of the servants had been discharged on suspicion; but it would appear that Huggins was the thief. A sentence of four years' penal servitude was passed on Bond.

Charles Hunter and Thomas Murty have been found guilty of the garotte robbery committed in the Borough upon Mr. Edward Mason, a banker's clerk, of which the particulars have already appeared in the *Leader*. They were sentenced to transportation for life. The moment the sentence was pronounced, Hunter threw himself on his knees, and with horrible imprecations declared that Murty was innocent. Murty also asserted his innocence. Both prisoners were exceedingly violent, and it was with some difficulty that they were removed from the dock.

Henry Franklin, was indicted for the manslaughter of William Taylor. The prisoner, the deceased, and some women who were related to the latter, were drinking at a public house at Kingsland on the 13th of October, and the whole party were more or less intoxicated. A quarrel took place between Franklin and Taylor; they went into the street to fight; and the latter was knocked down, and while he was upon the ground, Franklin kicked him on the head and neck. Paralysis ensued, and Taylor died on the following day, it being alleged that the kick on the neck was the cause of the death. The jury found the prisoner Guilty, and he was sentenced to fourteen days' solitary confinement.

Sarah Nicholls, a pretty-looking young woman, said to be seventeen years of age, surrendered to take her trial for concealing the birth of her illegitimate child. The infant was found dead in a box; but there were no marks of violence. Nicholls was found Guilty, but recommended to mercy; and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Emma Reynolds and Susan Hazeltine were found guilty of an omnibus robbery, and, being noted bad characters, were sentenced each to nine months' imprisonment.

Henry Nethercott, a letter-carrier, pleaded Guilty to a charge of stealing a letter containing a half-sovereign, a sixpence, and four postage stamps, the property of the Postmaster-General. His wages were only twelve shillings a week, the highest sum given to letter-carriers; but it appeared he was in the habit of getting intoxicated. He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Samuel Summers pleaded Guilty to a charge of escaping from custody after being convicted of stealing lead. It was shown that he had conducted himself very honestly ever since; and Mr. Baron Alderson said he could not regard the act in any very serious light, as "nothing could be more natural" than for a young man to endeavour to avoid a sentence of a year's hard labour. He had, however, done wrong, and he ought not to obtain any advantage by such a proceeding. He was sentenced to be imprisoned for a year, and that sentence he must still undergo, and, in addition he must undergo a further imprisonment of one month for the offence to which he had pleaded guilty, making in all thirteen months' imprisonment.

Robert Hawkins has been found Guilty of uttering a forged 5*l*. Bank of England note with intent to defraud. He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

Thomas Gilmour, of Ramsay, Isle of Man, was on Thursday finally examined on a charge of obtaining three bills of exchange for 250*l*. each by false representations. Mr. Capreol, of Gray's Inn, said he had been instructed by the friends of the prisoner to appear for the accused, and he had to state that arrangements had been made to the satisfaction of Mr. de Bors (the solicitor for the prosecution), and they had so exonerated Gilmour, that he would leave the court without a stigma upon his character. Mr. de Bors added that he declined to prosecute. Mr. Dayman, the magistrate, then said the prisoner would be discharged. He was about to leave the court by the private door, when he was stopped by the gaoler, who pointed to the public entrance. At this time, a sheriff's officer was at the side of Gilmour, ready to take him into custody upon a *capias*, at the suit of Mr. Bennett, the watch and clock maker of Cheapside. Ultimately, Gilmour was allowed to go through the private door to the cells, as he had left a bundle there; but he was followed by the sheriff's officer, and they were shortly afterwards seen walking together from the cell entrance into the road, the officer carrying the bundle.

Henry Chivers pleaded Guilty to a charge of bigamy. It appeared that the second wife was aware of the existence of the first at the time of the marriage. The man was sentenced to four months' hard labour.—Frederick Trevaas pleaded Guilty to an assault and robbery. This was one of the recent garotting cases. A sentence of transportation for fourteen years was passed on him.—William Henry Wootton, Joseph Young, Charles Cullen, Charles Homer, and Mary Anne Clark, were tried for a burglary at the house of Mr. Swire, a chemist on Brixton-hill, and for receiving the stolen property. The particulars have been related but recently in these columns. Homer was Acquitted; the others were found Guilty. Cullen, Clark, and Wootton, were sentenced to various terms of penal servitude and hard labour, and the sentence on Young was respited till next session.—Another case of burglary, in which a man named Philby Fish was concerned, together with Herbert Fish and William Roberts, has terminated in the Acquittal of the last two, and the conviction of the first-named, who is an old offender, and who was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

James Edwance, a respectable-looking young man, pleaded Guilty to an indictment for stealing a cheque of the value of 617*l*. 10*s*. belonging to his master, Mr. A. Jones. The prosecutor recommended the prisoner to mercy, on the ground of his previous good character and the act being one of sudden temptation. Sentence, three months' imprisonment.

#### THE SUPPOSED MURDER AT ERITH.

An inquest was opened last Saturday on the body of Worrell, who, as we stated in our last week's Postscript, poisoned himself in a cell of the Greenwich police-station while in charge under suspicion of being concerned in the supposed Erith murder. It appeared that the young man, who had recently come back from Australia, had been in a desponding state of mind for some time previous to the death of Carter, the person whom he is suspected to have killed; and, when taken into custody, his depression was very great. He said he could not live with such a charge hanging over him, and he threatened to poison himself. He was therefore strictly searched and frequently watched; but he contrived to swallow prussic acid. Previous to so doing, he had made a statement to the effect that he had been with Carter on the Thursday before his death, but not on the Friday, as alleged. The inquiry was adjourned till Wednesday. On the resumption of the inquiry, the chief additional witnesses were a cabman who drove Carter and Worrell to the London Bridge Railway station on the day when the murder is supposed to have been committed (Friday, the 7th inst.), and who had been previously examined at the inquest on Carter; some other persons who had also given evidence on the same occasion, and who showed that Carter and Worrell had been a good deal together on the Thursday and Friday; and Mrs. Worrell, the wife of the supposed murderer, who was painfully affected. She said:—"My husband left home on Friday, the 7th, a few minutes after nine, and returned home to dinner at three o'clock. I know that was the time, because he took out his watch and said it was an hour later than we ought to have dined—two o'clock. I went by his watch and what he said as to

that being the time. His dinner was brought up, but he ate very little of it; and he had tea about half-past five. I am sure he did not have dinner and tea together. My husband seemed very strange ever since last Sunday week. I recollect that particular day, because his father and my sister were at our house that day. When I say he was very strange, I mean he was very different from what he had ever been before. He made no communication to me as to where he expected money from. From the evidence given at the inquest on Carter, it furthermore appeared that the goatee with which the murder is supposed to have been committed, or partially committed, belonged to a workman who had lent it to a friend employed by Worrell's father. At the conclusion of Mrs. Worrell's evidence on Wednesday, the Coroner summed up, and the jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict to the effect that Worrell had destroyed himself while in sound mind. This being equivalent to a verdict of *felo de se*, an order has been made out for burying the body without any religious ceremonial.

With respect to the means by which Worrell consumed the poison, it is supposed that it was hidden in one of his boots. The boots were felt after he was taken into custody, but they were not pulled off.

#### OUTRAGES ON WIVES.

Cases of assaults on wives have recently diminished in number; but we have three to chronicle this week.

A journeyman shoemaker, living in Tabernacle-wall, Finsbury, named Thomas Conolly, was charged at the Worship-street police-office with having committed a savage assault on his wife and infant child. The woman had been married to him about six years; but ten months after their marriage he began to beat and use her, and had continued to do so unintermittingly ever since. A few nights since, he came home at a late hour very drunk, when his wife asked him for a small sum of money to buy some food. He not only refused to give her any, but flew into a violent passion, and seizing the tea-kettle which was on the fire at the time, filled with boiling water, flung it at his wife's head. It only just grazed one side of her face, but upon the bed close to where her infant was lying, and discharged its scalding contents over its face, neck, and arms. A surgeon was fetched, but he said that the child was so frightfully injured as to be quite beyond the reach of his medical skill, and he therefore advised the mother to remove it at once to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. This was accordingly done, and the child is now progressing favourably. Conolly, however, still continued ill-using his wife in various ways, and at last, at the instigation of a neighbour, she took out a warrant against him. The magistrate committed him for trial.

A leather-dresser, named Jeremiah Faulkes, was brought up at the Southwark police-court, on a charge of beating his wife. The man had of late been a confirmed drunkard, and had deserted his home a good deal, and nearly starved his wife. Not being of a strong constitution, she could not work for her own livelihood, and whenever she remonstrated with her husband on his conduct, he always beat her. One night he came home intoxicated and in a great rage, and his wife being much alarmed, attempted to get out of his way; but he seized her, and after throwing her violently on the ground, commenced kicking her. She contrived to get up, and fled for refuge to the house of one of her neighbours. The next day she took out a warrant against her husband. In his defence Faulkes merely said that he was drunk when he committed the assault, and that his wife must have "aggravated" him. The magistrate sentenced him to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A third case of this description was heard before Mr. Elliott at Lambeth, the accused in this instance being a man of the name of Patrick Mackler, formerly a singer at Astley's Theatre and other places, who was charged with assaulting and severely injuring Mrs. Farrell, his mother-in-law. Like the ruffians in the two previous cases, he came home one night in a state of intoxication, and began quarrelling with his wife about some trivial domestic matter; and when her mother, who was present, endeavoured to calm his anger, he took up a candlestick, and struck her violently with it on the bridge of her nose, which was cut completely through, and the nose, in consequence, hung down over her face. Although it was properly set by a surgeon, Mrs. Farrell believed that she was disfigured for life. The man stated that his mother-in-law was continually annoying him in one way or another, and not long ago had charged him with stealing some of her money. He was sentenced, however, to six months' hard labour.

GAROTTING.—A case of garotting is narrated by a sufferer in the *Times* of Monday. He writes:—"I was about seven o'clock last evening (Friday week) when I was walking through St. James's Park, towards Piccadilly, I was attacked by two men, one of whom seized me by the neck, at the same time demanding my pocket watch. I managed to extricate my watch from his clutches, and dealt him a blow in the face with my umbrella. At this crisis, a labourer ran to my assistance, and struggled with the other fellow, but failed in securing him, and they both made off. I could not



the courts they took. At the time of the occurrence there was no policeman in sight; and, had it not been for the timely aid of the labouring man, I should probably have fared badly."

**INCENDIARIES.**—Another incendiary fire has occurred on the premises of Mr. Baker, of Colwick Farm, near Nottingham, where a conflagration, purposely kindled, broke out about a fortnight ago. On the present occasion, several stacks of wheat, barley, and beans, were destroyed, and property was lost to the amount of 1000*l*. Mr. Baker is insured. An incendiary fire also burst out on the grounds of Mr. Alvey, where property to a less amount was consumed. The police are keeping an active watch, these acts of spoliation having been very numerous of late.

**CRIMES BY FOREIGNERS.**—Sir Peter Laurie, on Monday, at Guildhall, drew the attention of Sir James Duke to the increase of crime by foreigners in this country of late. He held in his hand a return which he had received from Mr. Jones, the clerk of the papers at Newgate, from which it appeared that during this year no less than sixty-four foreigners had been committed for trial. The monthly commitments were as follows:—January, 6; February, 5; March, 3; April, 5; May, 10; June, 4; July, 6; August, 9; September, 3; October, 3; and to the 20th of November no less than 10. Sir James Duke said these facts would no doubt attract the attention of Sir George Grey, and some remedy might soon be expected to mitigate the evil.

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE FROM PASSION.**—A young married woman, residing in Kentish Town, has cut her throat in consequence of having some angry words with her husband while they were both intoxicated. A policeman who was called in found the husband and wife slitting before the fire, the latter bleeding. She was conveyed to the nearest hospital, and on Monday was brought before the Marylebone magistrate, who remanded her, that she might be placed under the spiritual care of the chaplain at the House of Detention.

**THE WHOLESALE SWINDLER.**—Charles Bond, alias Ben, Sarah Jane Bond, his wife, Alfred Fennell, and Juliana Fennell, were on Monday again examined at Southwark, charged with plundering tradesmen in different parts of the metropolis of property, consisting of furniture, glass, watches, wearing apparel, beer, wine, and provisions, to the value of more than 1000*l*. The court was crowded with victimized tradesmen, and several witnesses were examined, whose evidence confirmed that which was received last week. The prisoners were committed for trial.

**CRIME IN THE WEST RIDING.**—The agricultural town of Otley, which is situated on a reach of the river Wharfe, and its neighbourhood were on the night of Friday week the scenes of a murderous assault and several attempted and consummated robberies. Friday was the annual 'statute'—a day which is set apart for the hiring of farm labourers and domestic servants. The murderous attack has been thus narrated:—Mr. Brown, a shopkeeper in the village, was seated by his fireside in a back room, when a man came into the shop, and turned off the gas, leaving the place in nearly total darkness. Mr. Brown, in some alarm, went into the shop, but, as soon as he approached, the man seized a large knife used for cutting butter and cheese, which was laid upon the counter, and struck Mr. Brown across the face, inflicting a deep wound, which extended from his nose across one cheek to one of his ears. The lower portion of the nose was nearly cut off. The ruffian then made a lunge at Mr. Brown's breast, and inflicted another wound just under the shoulder. Fortunately, the nature of the instrument, blunt at one edge, prevented the second wound from being very dangerous. The man then sprang across the shop to a nest of drawers, in one of which the shopkeeper was in the habit of putting gold and silver. He pulled one open, but fortunately that was not the money drawer, and, before he could open another, a dog belonging to the house rushed upon him and seized him with its teeth. Mr. Brown also made an alarm. The robber was intimidated by the noise and the gripe of the dog; he therefore gave up the attempt at robbery, shook off the dog, which was too small to hold him, and made his escape. It is feared, however, that, owing to the darkness, it will not be possible to identify him. The injured man is expected to recover.

**THE GIPSY KING.**—The inquest on old Stanley, commonly called "The Gipsy King of the West," who was found dead in the River Dart, near Totnes, was concluded on Friday week. It has been shown that the old man was talking to a little boy on Totnes-bridge one evening, when a tall, rough-looking fellow, dressed in a velvet jacket, came up and abused him, and took him away. A few hours afterwards, at two o'clock in the morning, a woman who lives near the river, heard a noise of quarrelling and struggling, and then a splash of water. She looked out, and saw a man, resembling the one who had accosted Stanley on the bridge, crouching by the water's edge and looking intently on the water. He ran away as fast as he could. It was proved by the medical men, however, that death was caused by strangulation, and not by drowning; and the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown."

**A LAX HEREW AND A ZEALOUS CHRISTIAN.**—An omnibus conductor was charged on Monday at Guildhall

with insulting three Jews. One of the Israelites, named Mark Levy, thus stated the case:—"On Saturday week, I was walking up Ludgate-street towards the Bank with two friends, when the defendant passed, and, perceiving we were Hebrews, he hailed us in a derisive manner, saying 'Whitechapel, Whitechapel!' We told him we did not ride on Saturday; and then he mounted to the top of the omnibus, took up a piece of pork, and held it towards us, at the same time saying, 'You Jew —, will you have a bit of this?' It made no difference to me, as I would have eaten it if I had been hungry, and fancied it was mutton." The omnibus conductor's defence was very singular. He admitted that he had offered the pork, but said it did not belong to him, but to a gentleman on the top of the omnibus. He was fined twenty shillings and costs, and the money was paid in the course of the day.—It is edifying to note the degeneracy of modern bigotry and persecution. Formerly, the worthy Christian conductor would have borne a hand in stoning the three Israelites; now, he contents himself with 'chaffing' them, and has to pay for his sport too, with an alternative of imprisonment. But a change has come over Judaism likewise. There was a time when Mark Levy would have been burnt at the stake rather than commit that evasion about the pork—much less acknowledge it.

**FALSE CHARACTERS.**—Mrs. Flora Smithson, the wife of a gentleman living in Gower-place, Euston-square, appeared at Bow-street on Tuesday to answer a summons charging her with having given a false character of a servant to a Mrs. Shute. The girl whose character was thus vouched for, afterwards fell under suspicion of having committed a robbery at Mrs. Shute's, and she absconded. For the defence, it was contended that the girl had at one time lived in the service of Mrs. Smithson, and that at the time the character was given she was still living in the same house. This, however, was not held to justify the character that was given; and Mrs. Smithson was sentenced to a fine of 10*l*., or, in default, to three months' imprisonment. On hearing this sentence she burst into tears. The money was not paid.—Edward McDonald has been charged at Marylebone with obtaining, by means of a false character, a situation as butler to Captain Fitzgerald, Hayes-park, near Uxbridge. Having obtained the situation, he very soon lost it, on account of drunkenness. He now threw himself on the mercy of the court, alleging that he had a wife and family in great distress. He was convicted in the penalty of 20*l*., with ten shillings costs; in default of payment, three months' imprisonment.

**THE ATTEMPTED MURDER IN BERMONDSEY.**—Richard Burchell, Abraham Burchell, and Patrick Ryan, have been committed for trial on the charge of murderously assaulting Patrick Griffin on Saturday night, the 25th October. The wounded man was at length on Tuesday able to attend at the Southwark police-office, and give his evidence; but it merely confirmed that of the other witnesses.

**A GOOD DEED DONE BY CONVICTS.**—Some of the convicts confined in the Richmond Bridewell, Dublin, have distinguished themselves by soliciting to be allowed to help in extinguishing a fire which had burst out in the building. The request was granted; and they worked with a right good will, and saved the edifice. That this conduct was not merely selfish is apparent from the fact that the flames did not approach any portion of the prison where they were lodged. Their sentences ought to be commuted.

**JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE.**—A trial for murder, of a very painful character, has taken place in Canada. Mr. Thomas Henderson, an attorney, seduced the wife of Mr. George Brogden, of Port Hope. The two men, who were both very young, had been friends from their schoolboy days; and Henderson was nominally paying his addresses to Mrs. Brogden's sister at the time he seduced the lady herself. Not content with inflicting this wrong on his friend, he wrote a letter to him, impudently boasting of the act. He also told several persons that he always carried arms about with him, and taunted Brogden with cowardice in not meeting him. One day, the two met accidentally at the steamboat wharf. Henderson nodded insolently to Brogden, saying, "How d'ye do, George?" Brogden immediately drew a pistol from his pocket, and shot Henderson dead. The jury at the trial declared that Brogden was not guilty of the murder, and he was acquitted.

**MATHEW v. LORD MAIDSTONE.**—An action was recently brought upon a 1000*l*. bill of exchange which had been given in renewal of a bill which turned out to have been forged, and at the trial the jury gave a verdict for Lord Maidstone. A rule, however, was obtained for a new trial upon the ground of misdirection, and that the verdict was against the evidence; and the matter, on Monday, came before the Court of Common Pleas upon cause being shown against the rule being made absolute. Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, at the conclusion of the argument, expressed his opinion that there had been no misdirection, and that the jury were justified in arriving at the verdict which they had given. Rule discharged.

**CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED.**—A great deal of interest has been excited by some proceedings in the Court of Common Pleas, in connexion with the case *Swynfen v. Swynfen*. The plaintiff, Mrs. Swynfen, is the daughter-in-law of the late Mr. Swynfen, and the

defendant, Captain Swynfen, is his son. The deceased, by his will devised his estates to the plaintiff, but the defendant subsequently claimed the estates as heir at law, and an issue was directed by the Court of Chancery to try whether the deceased at the time of making his will, was of proper capacity to do so. The issue went down for trial at Stafford before Mr. Justice Cresswell, and in the course of the trial an arrangement was come to, the principal terms of which were that Captain Swynfen was to have the estate, subject to his allowing the plaintiff an annuity of 1000*l*. That arrangement, however, Mrs. Swynfen positively refused to carry out, alleging that her counsel, Sir Frederick Thesiger, had not only no authority to make it, but that he had made it against her wish. This, Sir Frederick denies. The court, on the former occasion, decided that Mrs. Swynfen was bound to carry out the arrangement, and they granted a rule nisi for an attachment to compel her to do so. On Monday, the question was raised as to whether that rule should be made absolute. The Chief Justice, having been counsel in the case, when he was Attorney-General, retired from the bench, and took no part in it. The further hearing was adjourned till the 1st of December. In the course of his statement, Mr. Kennedy, who now appeared for Mrs. Swynfen, exclaimed, alluding to Sir Frederick Thesiger and the other counsel engaged for the lady on the trial, "Shame on them! they don't deserve to have any briefs again." Mr. Justice Cresswell interposed, and said Mr. Kennedy was going rather beyond what the facts warranted.

**THE CASE OF HANGING A BOY AT LEEDS.**—The boy who was seriously injured near Leeds, about two months ago, by being tied by some of his playfellows to a crane attached to a mill, has died from the injuries to the spine consequent on the trick that was played on him. The three boys concerned in the outrage have been apprehended and committed for trial.

**A HARD CASE.**—A convict, named Edward Hewart, forty-two years of age, has died of disease of the heart on board the *Unité* hospital-ship, moored off Woolwich dockyard. He had been sentenced to the disproportionately severe sentence of six years' penal servitude for stealing a few dozen oysters. He was not in good health when convicted, and the medical officer determined to recommend him as a person who ought to receive a free pardon, though he had only received about two years of his sentence. In order in some measure to explain the harshness of his sentence, it should be mentioned that he was already a ticket-of-leave man, and had been an old offender.

**A GAMBLING-HOUSE BILL TRANSACTION.**—An action has been brought in the Court of Queen's Bench by Richard Culverwell, a retired tailor, against John Sidebottom, a young man of respectable family and position, and a partner in a cotton manufacturing firm at Manchester, for the recovery of the sum of 2000*l*., which the plaintiff alleged was due to him upon a bill of exchange, accepted by the defendant on the 15th of June, 1852, at four years. The bill was drawn by a person named James Atkins, the keeper of a gambling-house called "the Berkeley," in Albemarle-street, and by him endorsed to Culverwell. The defence was that the bill was given to Atkins for money lost at the game of hazard, at Atkins's gambling-house, "the Berkeley," and that it was by him endorsed to Culverwell without consideration, and with notice of the illegality. The defendant, who was at the time a very young man, came up to London on a visit in the year 1847, and, unfortunately for him, was induced to visit Atkins's house from time to time, and to play at hazard. He thus lost as much as 25,000*l*., of which the sum of 8000*l*. was lost in one night. It was proved by the evidence of a man named Davis, who had been partner with Atkins, that the latter was in the habit of playing with loaded dice and what were termed "despatches," and that it was impossible that Sidebottom could win. The bill now in question, together with many others, had been given to Atkins in respect of these losses; but Sidebottom, after having paid Atkins many thousands of pounds, was induced to resist any further demands upon him; and the consequence was that the present action was brought. Culverwell contended that he was not aware that the money was given for gambling purposes; but in his cross-examination, he admitted having gone to the house in pursuit of his business as a tailor, and it appeared that he must have seen some evidences of the real nature of the place. The jury gave a verdict for the defendant.

**A SOLICITOR IN TROUBLE.**—Henry Zachariah Jervis, a solicitor, was brought before Mr. Baeson, at Marlborough-street, charged with obtaining money from a great number of persons, principally small tradesmen, under pretence of rendering them professional services. The court was crowded with persons from whom he had obtained money. After several witnesses had been heard, the case was adjourned.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER AT CROYDON.**—The suburbs of Croydon have been the scene of a horrible occurrence. A man named Bright, who had been concerned in a County-court case, went home, between ten and eleven o'clock, to his lodgings in the house of a Mrs. Belton. When he reached the place, the woman was in bed. He knocked at the door, and she came down to let him in. What transpired on the occasion is at present unknown, but it appears that the neighbours heard terrific shrieks

in the house soon after the man's arrival. Subsequently to this Bright came to the door, where several persons were standing, and in reply to their question, "What is the matter?" said, "Come in here, and see what's done." She's dead, she's dead! she will never rise more," at the same time pointing to Mrs. Belton, who was lying on the floor in a pool of blood, which was flowing profusely from her head. She was quite insensible, and was only in her night-clothes. One of the neighbours immediately went to Croydon for a surgeon. He met Sergeant Hearn, who accompanied him back to the house, in order, if possible, to secure the assassin, but by the time they arrived at the cottage, Bright had escaped, notwithstanding several persons were present at the time. An axe, covered with blood and matted hair, was found on the floor. Mrs. Belton, who is about forty-two years of age, and a very respectable woman, still lives, but her recovery is considered hopeless.

**FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS STOLEN BY A LETTER CARRIER.**—James Ingram, a letter-carrier, has been committed for trial at Manchester, for stealing a bank post-bill for 460*l.* and eight 5*l.* notes. A letter containing the money was found on him. He admitted that he and another letter-carrier had intended to resign, but that before doing so they had arranged to steal a number of letters, and appropriate their contents.

**THE "GREAT NORTHERN" ROBBERY.**—William Snell, the clerk, who stands charged with stealing a cheque for 500*l.*, and other sums of a like amount, was again placed at the bar for re-examination on Thursday morning, before Mr. D'Eyncourt, at Clerkenwell police-court. Further evidence having been given with respect to the defalcation to the amount of 1000*l.*, Mr. Huddleston, who appeared for the Company, said:—"There is another case which arises out of the following circumstances. There is a fund called the Sick Allowance Fund, which is made up of deductions from the servants' wages. The account is kept with Mr. Kennard. Mr. Reynolds, when he pays the men's money, either pays or deducts, as the case may be. It was Snell's duty to get cheques from the secretary for the amounts thus paid, and pay them into the accountant's drawing account. There is also another account at the Union Bank called the Great Northern Railway Account. Instead of paying the 96*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* in cash to the latter account on a certain day, he made it up of the cheques of the Sick Allowance Fund." The case was adjourned to next Thursday.

**THE CASE OF INDECENT EXPOSURE IN THE REGENT'S PARK.**—The trial in the Court of Queen's Bench of Mr. Gosling, brother of the well known banker, on a charge of inducing girls to expose themselves in the parks, came on on Thursday. The evidence is unfit for publication; but, from the cross-examination by Mr. Balantine, of the two chief witnesses (Mitchell and Warren), who followed Mr. Gosling and gave him into custody, it appeared probable, in the opinion of Lord Campbell, that they were endeavouring to extort money. He did not think there was sufficient evidence to go before a jury. The Solicitor-General, who had charge of the prosecution, therefore withdrew the case. Lord Campbell then added:—"I wish it to be known that, if these charges had been proved, I should have inflicted upon Mr. Gosling the most severe punishment which the law of England warrants."

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

**AN IRISH MILITIA MYSTERY.**—The Kilkenny *Modeler*—generally correct upon military topics—announces that orders have been issued to each of the colonels of the various militia regiments to take steps for completing the quota of his respective corps. Major Maunsell, adjutant of the Kilkenny Fusiliers, has already entered on the preliminary arrangements for the enrolment of men for that regiment. The local paper remarks that the object of thus filling up the regiments at present is only known to her Majesty's advisers.—*Times*.

**GENERAL BEATSON.**—The General Commanding-in-Chief has ordered a court of inquiry (in connexion with the dispute between Generals Beatson and Shirley) to assemble in London immediately, composed of the following officers:—Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Campbell, G.C.B., President; Major-General Lord William Paulet, C.B., Major-General Lawson, C.B., Major-General Cameron, C.B., Colonel Norcott, C.B.

**PROPOSED DEPOT BATTALION AT ABERDEEN.**—Colonel Mudie, with two engineer officers, has visited Aberdeen with a view to ascertain if sufficient accommodation could be found there for the erection of a barracks with rifle practice ground, for a battalion of 2000 troops.

**DISARMING OF ITALIAN LEGIONARIES.**—Some of the Italian Legionaries who are about to proceed to Buenos Ayres having refused to give up their arms, consisting of revolvers, bowie-knives, sword-sticks, and ammunition, the ship in which they were being conveyed (the *Acadia*) was towed into Sheerness harbour, when Captain Lord Frederick Kerr, of the flagship *Waterloo*, and First Lieutenant Maunsell, of the same vessel, proceeded on board the *Acadia*, and addressed the Italians, telling them that it was the law of this country that emigrants should deliver up all deadly weapons on departing. After some conversation among the men, who formed in different groups upon deck, Cavio Giovanni, a private of the 2nd Regiment of the Legion, set an example by

walking quietly up on the fore-castle, drawing his six-barrel revolver, and discharging all six shots into the water. He then came aft, on the poop, and delivered his revolver, with all his ammunition, to Captain Gwyn and the other officers, for which he received a receipt. Upon the others seeing this done, they followed the example.

**MISS NIGHTINGALE AT WOOLWICH.**—Miss Nightingale, accompanied by Lord Panmure, paid an unexpected visit to Woolwich on Friday week. She was received by Sir W. F. Williams, who conducted her and the War Secretary over the various hospitals, &c. The visit was strictly *incognito*.

**SUPPOSED LOSS OF A SCOTCH STEAMER.**—A fearful gale passed over the German Ocean about a fortnight ago, and it is feared that the screw steamer *Roslyn*, of Glasgow, has foundered on her return voyage to that port from Stettin. She started on the 8th of November, and has not yet been heard of, though she was due at Glasgow on the 12th.

**MARITIME LAW.**—Mr. Cobden has addressed a letter to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in which he gives his reasons for approving of the United States proposition that private property on the ocean during war should be exempt from seizure by Government-armed cruisers as well as by privateers. "I cannot help regretting, as an Englishman," writes Mr. Cobden, "that the proposal did not originate with us. But the next best thing will be to give it a prompt and hearty acceptance, and aid in securing for it, if possible, a world-wide acquiescence. It is impossible to foresee all the consequences of such a revolution in the rules of war. It is, I believe, the first time in the annals of the world that the powers of belligerents will be restrained and defined in the interest of individuals by written international law. Who can tell in what other direction the precedent may be followed? Wars will henceforward partake more of the character of duels between Governments than of the old contests of nations. Private citizens will cease to be held responsible or liable to injury, unless they become participants in the strife. There will no longer be plunder and prize money to add the stimulus of cupidity to the passions of hatred and revenge; and we shall have one pretence less for constantly increasing the burden of war navies in proportion to the growth of foreign commerce, on the plea of protecting our mercantile marine."

**MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. W. BARNARD, K.C.B.**, has, it is understood, been appointed a Major-General on the staff of the army of Bengal, vice Major-General Wyndham, who has resigned that appointment.

**A TROPHY OF A PAST WAR.**—A very interesting memorial of a celebrated event in naval history has been presented to the gunroom officers of her Majesty's ship *Shannon*, at Portsmouth. This consisted of a box handsomely mounted in silver, and gilt inside, richly chased and embossed with the shamrock, rose, and thistle, and bearing the following inscription:—"Box made from part of a beam of the United States frigate *Chesapeake*, captured in single combat by her Majesty's frigate *Shannon*, in Boston Bay, United States, 1st of June, 1813. Presented to the gunroom mess of the *Shannon*, as a perpetual memorial of that action, by Rear-Admiral Provo Wallis, senior surviving Lieutenant."

#### OBITUARY.

**MR. RENDEL, C.E.**—Mr. J. M. Rendel, F.R.S., the Engineer of the Admiralty and other public works, died on Friday week, from severe cold taken a few days previously.

**JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT.**—English art has recently sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. John Arthur Herbert, son of the Royal Academician, which took place at Mouriac, in France, and was occasioned by an attack of typhus fever. He was the painter of "Phillip IV. of Spain Knighting Velasquez," one of the most admired pictures in the exhibition at the National Gallery this year. He was in his twenty-second year.

**MR. JOHN LAMB**, the well-known Quaker correspondent of the *Northern Whig*, and writer of the "Notes on the State of the Country," died of apoplexy on Thursday week.

**MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART, M.P.** for the county of Lanark, died at his seat in Clydesdale on Tuesday morning.

**LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ALEXANDER THOMPSON.**—The Dublin papers announce the death of Lieutenant-General Alexander Thompson, Colonel in Chief of the 74th Highlanders, now in India. His name has been long associated with efforts to improve and cultivate the wildest parts of the far west of Ireland, Connemara. He died on the 23rd inst. at his seat, Salruc House, situated on the Little Killeries.

**MR. ANOUS B. REACH.**—This gentleman, known to many as a witty writer and as an amiable man, for whom, under circumstances of affliction, Mr. Albert Smith and some other amateurs gave a performance in the early part of last year, died on Tuesday at his residence, Denmark-hill. He had not quite completed his thirty-fifth year; but overwork had produced softening of the brain and paralysis, and he has added another to the many sacrifices to the slavery of the periodical press.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE.**—The telegraph operator of Vera Cruz, on the arrival of the bark *Paganos*, on the 1st of October telegraphed to the city of Mexico the astounding intelligence of the failure of the Bank of England. He fancied that the Royal British Bank could be no other than the great national banking institution of the British people.—*American Paper*.

**THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.**—It is now stated, on the authority of the Bishop of Rochester himself, that he has no intention of retiring at present.

**THE SITE OF THE BOARD OF WORK OFFICES.**—The Board has determined, by 13 to 9, not to make any proposal for taking a portion of the site of the Fleet prison for building its new offices upon, the expense involved being too great.

**METROPOLITAN FINANCES.**—The Board of Works, on Tuesday, devoted a long time to the consideration of a statement submitted to them on the 3rd ult., showing the financial condition of the several parishes and districts, with the particulars of outstanding loans and mortgages, and an estimate of the sums to be raised by the Board for the year ending the 31st of December, 1856. A question arose as to the mode in which the City should be assessed under the Local Management Act. In other parts of the metropolis the assessment is made according to the county rates; but, as there are no county rates in the City, it became necessary to select some other mode of assessment. A resolution (moved by Mr. Turner, and carried by a majority of 19 to 12) was passed, to the effect that, in order that the City of London may be assessed for the purposes of the Metropolitan Act on a like estimate as other parts of the metropolis, regard shall be had to the amount at which it is assessed for the property tax. After considerable discussion, it was resolved that the statement should be referred back to the finance committee for reconsideration.

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—A crowded meeting of this society was held on Tuesday, Mr. J. J. Blandy, vice-president, in the chair, for the purpose of inspecting the collections of fruit and other horticultural objects which had been provided for the occasion. The display was very brilliant.

**THE REPRESENTATION OF SOUTHAMPTON.**—A general meeting of from four to five thousand of the supporters of Mr. Edwin James on the one hand, and of Mr. Weguelin on the other, took place at the Riding School on Tuesday, when resolutions in favour of the two candidates were proposed and seconded. The show of hands was very evenly balanced, but the chairman (Mr. Alderman Dusautoy) declared the majority in favour of Mr. James. This being disputed by Mr. Weguelin's supporters, a scene of great uproar ensued. The chair was then vacated; Mr. Councillor Clarke was called on to preside; when it was unanimously resolved that the former decision should be reversed, and that the vote should be declared in favour of Mr. Weguelin.

**THE STATUE OF SIR CHARLES JAMES NAPIER.**—Mr. G. G. Adams's statue of this hero was placed on its pedestal in Trafalgar-square one night during the present week. The act was effected very secretly, and the neighbourhood, next morning, were surprised to see the gigantic, but still muffled, figure towering above its base at the south-west corner of the square. The unveiling took place at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, but without any pomp or ceremony. Of course, however, there were several spectators, and of course they chattered loudly as the coverings were withdrawn. The height of the figure, which is of bronze, not blackened over, but showing all the colour of the metal, exceeds twelve feet, and the granite pedestal, which is of the simplest kind, surmounted only by a plinth and moulding, stands seventeen feet from the ground. It may be remarked that the feet of the figure are planted immediately on the granite, without the intervention of a metallic base. On the pedestal is this inscription:—"Charles James Napier, General, born MDCCCLXXXII; died MDCCCLIII. Erected by public subscription from all classes, civil and military, the most numerous subscribers being private soldiers."

**A LIGHTHOUSE ON FIRE.**—Information has been received at Lloyd's of the destruction, by fire, of the lighthouse at Seaham. The keepers of the lighthouse (a revolving one) had a narrow escape of being burnt to death. In order to prevent accidents to the steamers and shipping, orders have been issued that, until the revolving light is re-established, a fire-light shall be maintained on the cliff adjacent.

**THE WEATHER.**—A heavy fall of snow covered the West Riding of Yorkshire on Wednesday morning, and the traffic on the Great Northern line was for a time suspended. In the metropolis, on the previous night there had been a considerable descent of the same wintry visitor.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—The returns for the week that ended last Saturday exhibit a decided increase of the deaths in London. The deaths, which at the beginning of this month were about 1000 in a week, and were afterwards 1090, rose last week to 1261. In the two weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1072; and the same rate of mortality in the present increased population would have produced 1179 deaths. There was therefore last week



an excess of 82 above the corrected average. The increase on the previous weeks of this month arises almost entirely from diseases of the respiratory organs. In connexion with this subject, it may be stated that the mean temperature of the air was on every day from the 2nd inst. till the 20th below the average, and often so much as 7 deg. below it, while fogs, more or less dense, were frequent. Last week, the births of 811 boys and 767 girls, in all 1578 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the year 1846-55, the average number was 1440.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

**HUDDESFIELD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—The anniversary proceedings of this institution commenced on Wednesday evening, with a public distribution of prizes to the students in its classes; the annual *soirée* of the members and supporters having been fixed for Thursday. Both of these events were to take place in the Huddersfield Philosophical Hall, under the presidency of Viscount Goderic, the member for the borough, assisted by the presence of several eminent promoters of popular education. On Wednesday evening, there were on the platform, besides Lord Goderic, the Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, Mr. J. S. Pakington, the Rev. Dr. Booth (of the Society of Arts), Mr. Edw. Baines, Mr. Eastwood (President of the Institution), Mr. J. Hope Shaw, Mr. W. Williams, Dr. Cameron, and many other influential residents in the district. The hall was well filled, there being upwards of a thousand persons present, among whom were many ladies. Several speeches were delivered, and the proceedings passed off with much enthusiasm.

**A NEW FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.**—A meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday, when Lieutenant Pim read an "outline of a plan for a further search after the missing expedition under Sir John Franklin." He looked for the solution of the mystery to the locality of King William Land. Lieutenant Pim ascribed the failure of the last expedition, sent out by the Hudson Bay Company to follow up the traces of Franklin discovered by Dr. Rae, to various causes, but chiefly to the lateness of the period of the year when they started and to the absence of an interpreter; and he denied the existence of any evidence proving that the party had perished, since no vestige of human remains had been found, which would otherwise have been the case. The scheme he proposed was comprehensive. A screw steamer, with a complement of twenty men, was to penetrate as far down Peel Sound as possible, take up winter quarters, and, assisted by teams of dogs, purchased at the Danish settlements of Greenland, extend the search down both sides of the sound. Another screw steamer was to push through Behring Strait and winter at King William Land; a third party was to descend the Great Fish River. Lieutenant Pim particularly desired the use of small steamers, supplied with dogs for travelling purposes. Some discussion ensued, and a few opinions adverse to the scheme were expressed by Dr. Rae and Mr. John Brown; but Sir Roderick Murchison and others approved of the suggestion, and Sir Roderick intimated that he had reason to believe that Lord Palmerston looked with a favourable eye on another expedition.

**PREACHING AT A FAIR.**—The Revs. James Moorhouse and W. Wilkinson preached in the open air a few days ago at the Sheffield cheese fair. The oratory was accompanied by singing, and tracts were afterwards distributed.

**EXPLOSION OF A BOILER.**—A tremendous explosion took place on Wednesday afternoon on board the Parana steamer, in the Southampton Docks, owing to the steam-chest having been blown by the pressure of steam from the shell of the boiler. Four men belonging to the fire department were scalded to death, and the same number were seriously injured. An inquest has been opened, but is not yet concluded. No defect in the metal has been noticed.

**THE BANKRUPTCY OF WILLIAM JAMES ROBSON.**—The bankrupt was an antimony smelter, of Bowling-green-mews, Kennington, but is better known for his forgeries of Crystal Palace scrip. He was brought up in custody on Thursday to pass his last examination. The curiosity to see a person who has rendered himself so notorious was great, and the court was crowded at an early hour. Robson being removed from the open court, after the lapse of a few minutes, to a private room, many remained to a late hour to witness his departure. By the kindness of an officer of the court the bankrupt was permitted to see his wife—the last time, it was said, that he would be enabled to do so during the twenty years over which his sentence of transportation extends. The case was adjourned to the 8th of next January.

**SIR ALEXANDER COCKBURN'S FAREWELL.**—The new Chief Justice of the Common Pleas has taken leave of his constituents in Southampton (by whom he has been six times elected to represent them in Parliament) in an address which contains the subjoined passages:—"Had I followed my own wishes and inclination, I should still have remained member for Southampton. To be the Attorney-General of England, and to represent you in Parliament, was the utmost object of my ambition, and left me nothing to desire. But I have become conscious that I am less able than heretofore, in point of health and strength, to meet the calls of a position which combined Parliamentary and official with professional

duties, and I have yielded to the advice of friends interested in my welfare, and exchanged these cares for duties which, though arduous and laborious, are of a less exacting and exciting character than those which I have hitherto sustained. . . . Permit me to bid you, one and all, a hearty and affectionate farewell, and while I return to my numerous friends my grateful thanks for their unwearied kindness, let me pray my political foes (and I trust I have none other among you) to bury in oblivion the remembrance of all past animosity, and to think of me only as one who has sought to represent you honestly according to his views, and to whom your entire community will ever be an object of the most cherished remembrance and regard."

**SUNKEN WAR VESSELS AT SEBASTOPOL TO BE RAISED BY AN AMERICAN.**—A Mr. John E. Cowen, of Boston, U.S., who is now in Russia, has just entered into a contract with the Russian Government to raise the ships of war and other vessels, fifty-two in number, sunk in the harbour of Sebastopol at the time of the siege.

**THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.**—A statue to the memory of the founder of this hospital, Captain Coram, has been placed on the stone structure in the centre of the entrance gates. The work is by Mr. William Calder Marshall, R.A., and the expense has been defrayed by private subscription.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, November 29.

### CONVICTION OF MARLEY.

**ROBERT MARLEY, alias Jenkins**, was tried yesterday at the Central Criminal Court for the murder of Richard Cope. The evidence must be so fresh in the recollection of our readers that it need not here be repeated. The defence (which, at the instance of the sheriffs, was conducted by Mr. Sleight) turned upon the possibility of mistaken identity, and upon the fact, brought out in evidence, that Cope had some degree of internal disease, and that therefore the cause of death was not certain. The result, however, was clear from the first. Marley was found GUILTY, and was condemned to death. He was exceedingly composed during the trial, and, when asked if he had anything to say why he should not receive sentence, answered, in a quick, sharp tone, "I have nothing to say." At the conclusion of the sentence, he bowed his head, and walked trippingly from the dock.

Mr. Bodkin then informed the court that the witness Lerigo had, in consequence of having to attend the various examinations in connexion with this case, lost his situation. Baron Alderson said he greatly regretted such a circumstance; but, if the recommendation of the judges would be of any service in getting him another, he should have it. He also directed that Lerigo should be presented with 20*l*. At this, there were suppressed murmurs of approbation.

### LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

On the morning of the 24th, General Dufour arrived at Berne on his return from his mission at Paris. According to the rumours current at Berne, the General has brought with him proposals of an arrangement, which the council immediately took into consideration.

The *New Prussian Gazette* of the 23rd says:—"It is now certain that England has consented to the meeting of the second Congress, which will definitively settle the question of the frontiers of Bessarabia."

"Letters from St. Petersburg," says the *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna, "announce that the Russian Government is adopting very extensive measures for the reorganization of its southern provinces, particularly the Crimea and the countries on the shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof."

**THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY FRAUDS.**—Leopold Redpath and James Charles Conyn Kent were again examined at Clerkenwell yesterday. After evidence of a formal character had been received, the prisoners were again remanded.

**THE ITALIAN LEGION.**—Joseph Maroki, one of the recent Italian Legion, was found guilty yesterday at the Court of Queen's Bench of an attempt to stab a policeman with a bowie-knife. He was sentenced to hard labour for six months. François Bossé, also an Italian, though with a French name, and likewise one of the disbanded corps, was found guilty on the previous day of stabbing and wounding John Flynn. Sentence—transportation for fourteen years.

**THE MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME.**—Two deputations, one from Erith, headed by Sir Culling Eardley, the other from Gravesend, led by the Mayor, had an interview with Lord Palmerston at his private residence, yesterday (Friday) morning, with a view to beseeching his protection against the proposed scheme for carrying the main drainage of the metropolis to within three-quarters of a mile of Erith church. The Premier said he would give the subject his best consideration.

**THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.**—The petition to Mr. Commissioner Holroyd to annul the bankruptcy of this company has been ordered to stand over for the present.

### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**ASSURANCE FOR ASSURERS.**—*Laisses-Paire* next week. No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1856.

## Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—*DR. ARNOLD.*

### THE LULL.

A LULL has settled down upon politics, abroad and at home. It would be a mischievous fallacy to suppose that it is the precursor of a general settlement of public interests and relations. It is merely a pause, betraying uncertainty, suspicion, want of foresight on the part of the several Governments. Russia refuses to abandon her pretensions to Bolgrad and the Isle of Serpents, and claims the privilege of arguing her case at a new Congress. She assented to the peace, indeed, with the design of retaining that of which the Allies were resolved to deprive her—an opening to the Danube, and a position at its mouth. Great Britain, at the same time, adheres to her own interpretation of the treaty, and France to hers, the recent show of amity having been purchased, it would seem, by a postponement of the difficult points under discussion. Of course, the object of the Russian Government is, to convene a second Congress, at which her bad faith, assisted by French fickleness, may receive the sanction of a diplomatic title-deed. In that case, Great Britain could no longer protest, which she may under present circumstances continue to do, even though the cession of Bolgrad and the Isle of Serpents be not enforced by arms. However, there is no sign of Lord Lyons's withdrawal from the Black Sea, or of an Austrian retirement from the Principalities.

The relations between the Western Cabinets and Naples have come to a dead stop. The lull is here the leisure of perplexity. The French Minister has left Naples; the Neapolitan Minister is to leave Paris—what next? The King is firm, being the client of a great Power; the Allied Governments are firm also. But what is their firmness to come to? The process is repeated in Copenhagen. Austria and Prussia have joined in certain demands with reference to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein; and, though they have not threatened to withdraw their representatives, their attitude is said to be very firm. Their firmness, however, is equalled by that of the King of DENMARK, who, being like his brother of NAPLES, the client of the Czar, asserts his independent prerogative, and awaits the result. Similar hesitation is observable in the policy of Prussia towards the federated cantons. Prussia affirms her sovereign rights in Neuchâtel, and demands the pardon of the individuals implicated in the recent royalist outbreak. The Federal Government replies that it will take its own course with respect to offences committed within its own territory, and so the affair rests until, on one side or another, the representative men are bold enough to take another step. At Constantinople, the SULTAN is embarrassed between the rival influences of England, France, and Russia—and the Principalities, Bolgrad, the Isle of Serpents, and the final evacuation of the Ottoman territories, are

questions which stand over until a variety of provisional points are adjusted. **REDSCHID PACHA**, we are informed, awaits the reply of England, France, and Austria to his proposal for a Congress including only the plenipotentiaries of those Powers. It is here that Turkey and Russia are at issue, Russia declining the decision of a Congress in which Austria and England might carry a vote against France. They may be misinformed, in England, who impeach **M. WALEWSKI**'s policy as anti-English and pro-Russian, but whether **M. DE MOREY** was bribed for it or not, he has succeeded in persuading the Emperor **ALEXANDER** that France stands aloof from the diplomacy of England.

In France itself the lull is not that of foreign politics alone. It hangs over the Court, the capital, the provinces. While the Cabinet is pressing Lord **PALMERSTON** to reopen the debate on the frontier difficulty and the Serpents' Island dispute, and putting forward a variety of propositions all tending to the release of Russia from the conditions of the Paris Treaty, the Emperor himself appears half-bewildered. He knows that his policy is to stand well with England; but his supporters are of a different mind. He lives for power, they for money; and it is the natural consequence of his position that none but vile agents will serve him. Meanwhile, the sufferings of the working classes are in no way mitigated; discontent is more rife than ever; at one moment the public works are suspended to ease the Exchequer, at another they are resumed to conciliate the fretful artisans. And the winter approaches rapidly to test the endurance of the people and the precautions of the Government.

In Austria, Sir **HAMILTON SEYMOUR** is represented as having assured the Imperial Government that England would encourage no movement of the disaffected population in Italy. As if such an assurance had not been given long ago! As if it were not as indispensable in Paris as in Vienna! Whatever has been said, means, probably, as much as the explanations of the French Government on the subject of Muratist in Naples. In the meantime, Lombardy and Venice observe in silence the passage of the Austrian Emperor; the Sardinian liberals continue to organize their great plan of a war of national independence; dynastic pretensions are rejected on every side; thirteen subscription lists for the ten thousand muskets have been closed, but the party moves in secret, conscious of its moral power and of the necessity of caution. The same comparative quietude prevails throughout the Spanish peninsula. Affairs at the capital are stationary. No one expects the actual state of things to last; but the intermittent outbreaks in the provinces are evidences, simply, of a disorganized condition of society. They are not politically serious.

Parties at home are engaged in watching the progress, or no-progress of events abroad. The Conservatives, having no respectable representation through the press, have all but disappeared from the scene of public affairs. There is a general concurrence in the idea that Lord **DERBY** inspired the recent Essay on the declining efficiency of Parliament, which, if true, may be accepted as a new proof that he himself is declining in sincerity or in intellect. The lower organs of the Tories chatter feebly; in one direction about Lord **PALMERSTON**'s treachery, and in another betray a bitter sense of inferiority by perpetual cavils on the exclusion of their sect from office. Lord **PALMERSTON**, in the presence of an opposition so destitute of character and talent, affects a monarchical disregard of official responsibility, and carries on great diplomatic dealings with the leading

Powers of the world—in addition to an un-diplomatic transaction with Persia—without uttering more at Manchester or the Mansion House than a few vague sentences, which may mean anything or nothing.

Under these circumstances, with peace insecure, with vast changes possible from day to day on the Continent, with new combinations forming abroad, and old principles in abeyance at home, why are our tribunes silent? where are those men who form the conscience of the House of Commons? Setting aside, momentarily, the trusted Liberals, where is Mr. **GLADSTONE**? He is, in part, responsible for the pressure that has been applied to Naples; is he satisfied with the policy of intervention concerted between Lord **PALMERSTON** and the French Emperor? Let us repeat: the lull may be the prelude to a European settlement; but it may be, on the other hand, the beginning of trouble.

#### LORD JOHN.

SHOULD Lord **JOHN RUSSELL** accept the invitation conveyed him by such general acclaim, he ought to expect his own terms for the acceptance. He certainly stands on a high vantage ground. We have refrained from entering upon this subject hitherto, in the hope that we should see some answer to the appeal, some settlement of the question whether he accepts or not. We rather surmised, indeed, that some arrangement was actually proceeding, and that the public calls for Lord **JOHN**, which came from different parts of the community, were the result of some predetermined plan. We do not know how far this may be the case with particular circles, but we do believe that Lord **JOHN** himself has no part in the matter. If any arrangements have been designed, it is without consulting him. There is a belief that Lord **JOHN** will come back, resume an active part in politics, accept a peerage, re-enter the Government, and take up measures which other men find too much for them; the whole calculation being based on the one single datum, that a want is felt. The public and public men cry, 'Lord **JOHN**, you are wanted,' and they expect that Lord **JOHN** will come at the call, opening his mouth and shutting his eyes to take what his friends may please to have provided for him.

No man has been more severely criticized than that same member of the house of Bedford. A year or two ago, one might have supposed, from the tone of the liberal press, that he had done worse than betray his country—that he had stultified his country. A year or two ago we were assured, on the one side, that Lord **PALMERSTON** was the man of the day; on the other, that Lord **DERBY** was, after all, 'the coming man;' and in the middle, among the unclassified liberals, we were told that there was some national party to turn up; but at last it is discovered that no better statesman can at present be invented than Lord **JOHN RUSSELL**. Candidly we are not prepared to deny the statement. We look round us to see if a better man can be found, one more suited to be the leader of the Liberal party, one on whose conduct those who are anxious for further reform could more confidently and justly rely. There is no other individual man answering to the description. We are quite willing to accept Sir **RICHARD BETHELL**'s assurance that he will bring bills for law reform into Parliament; we believe that Lord **PALMERSTON** will endorse any bills that are presented for acceptance by good customers out of doors; but we think the public can pretty well guess the result of debates on bills in the House of Commons. There are excellent lawyers in both Houses, anxious to improve the body of the law; but it never has been

the lawyers who supplied the political steam who expressed all the demands of the people, or would compel the Government for the time being to concede those demands. The most likely and popular member at the present day is Sir **JOHN PAKINGTON**, who is devoting himself, heart and soul, to promote one general measure for the whole body of the people. He is at this moment the single example. There is an association bent upon bringing about a better administration of the public offices, but it has as yet presented to Parliament no measure which affects the whole body of the people; and it stands before the public just at present only in the light of a plan—a truly magnificent plan no doubt—for a great movement. Its leaders cannot as yet point to their accomplished deeds. Now of Lord **JOHN RUSSELL** we know something more. If there is any man who has done good service in breaking down the remains of religious intolerance in this country, that man is Lord **JOHN RUSSELL**. If there is any man at the present day who is identified with the extension of the national franchise, it is Lord **JOHN**. If any man has laboured longer and with more practical results in the cause of public education than Sir **JOHN PAKINGTON**, it is Lord **JOHN**. If there is any man who at the present moment actually contemplates a genuine extension of the franchise to a much larger number of the people, something like a national franchise, that man, again, is Lord **JOHN**. Take his life, from first to last, it is consistent, intelligible. He has always been a Whig, and has now satisfied us, though he has, indeed, advanced in his views since he put his hand to a pure middle-class Reform Bill. We think that he ought to restore that franchise, which we believe to be the inherent right of every freeborn Englishman. But no man of the present day has actually accomplished more progress towards that restoration; and no man amongst us now is actively contemplating so large a further progress in the same path. There is, therefore, none who, on the return of peace, with the return of public attention to domestic affairs, is more fitted to be the leader for the nation in Parliament.

We know the confession which this tribute to Lord **JOHN**'s consistency implies. We would have gone much further, and certainly with much more speed than Lord **JOHN**; and we are well aware that to pronounce him the foremost man of this day is a censure upon all the public men who ought to be in advance of him. It is something like the same thing as dragging forth poor Lord **RAGLAN** from his veteran repose to take the head of the army which ought to have had some young **WELLESLEY** at its head; but we have no young **WELLESLEY** in the army, we have no young Lord **JOHN RUSSELL**, and must in 1856 fall back upon the man of 1830.

The arrangement which we have mentioned has been ascribed to some of Lord **JOHN**'s admirers in this country; it appears to have been countenanced by those who are socially high in the Liberal party. It was felt, perhaps, that the Ministry does not possess a hold on the public confidence, for want of any distinct pledges of a political character from these members. The Cabinet would be strengthened by the addition of Lord **JOHN**; the House of Lords wants an infusion of good constitutional principle, the Liberal party wants a political leader, and Lord **JOHN** is requested to return home for the purpose of accepting the part of *jeune Premier* to the Liberal party. Nobody appears to know whether he will accept, or not. If he does, we say he has a right to his terms. We do not mean from Ministers,—they are of very secondary importance. We mean from the Liberal party. We do not mean that he has



a right to a peerage,—for him that would be a promotion downwards,—a disqualification for taking the best place in a political lead. But he would have a right to expect that, if he accepted the invitation, and if he produced his scheme of Parliamentary action, he should receive a strong and united support for himself and his measures.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBERALISM IN FRANCE.

It may be assumed, we suppose, that the liberal party in France is not engaged solely in ridiculing and hating the Empire. In the course of nature it will have to appoint the successor of LOUIS NAPOLEON—the President or the King representing the recovered independence of the French nation. That opportunity may not be far distant, but it were better deferred for half a century than that France should not apply her freedom to a wiser use than in 1848. That year was made illustrious by a demonstration of public virtue such as France has not since displayed; but it was, nevertheless, a year of error—not of incidental error only, but of error based on principles which were long ago adopted by the nation, but which the nation may have now learned to discard. Cardinal, the Republic rendered its own existence impossible by calling to its councils men who neither expected nor understood it, but who aimed at ensuring its dissolution. Such men were among the framers of the Constitution. They purposely planned a weak political machinery; they knew it must fail; they were only disappointed when they found that a band of obscure adventurers, upon the ruin of the Republic, seized the positions which they, its hypocritical friends and founders, long known to France and to her statesmen, hoped to fill. They placed the electoral law at the mercy of the reaction; they agitated the country, that the country might yearn for repose; they were allowed by their generous dupes, the more honest and less crafty republican leaders, to create objects of ridicule in public institutions; they voted an ideal; they vested power in an uncontrolled executive; they confided the government to LOUIS NAPOLEON in such a form as convinced intelligent observers among the ranks of statesmen especially, that, whatever the change might be, some great change was inevitable at the expiration of his presidential term. These were some of the reasons why, in December, 1851, each party was meditating its *coup d'état*. Fatigue had done much, fear did the rest; and, while the royalists were awaiting their recal, the Empire, born in the night, overshadowed France, and possessed the ground for which expectant parties were preparing to contend.

But other causes must have been active. There must be reasons, deep in history, why France, after sixty years of progress, submitted to the humiliation of the Empire, temporary as it may be. LOUIS NAPOLEON, undeniably, represents something, some weakness, some vice of the nation. Nothing that happened between 1848 and 1851 suffices to explain how France, which in 1850 possessed a National Guard of two millions and a half of men, of whom two millions were armed with firelocks, should be suppressed, silenced, disarmed, by a man who, four years before, had come, poor and powerless, to solicit her suffrages.

M. DE TOCQUEVILLE, in his work on France before the Revolution, ascribes many of the misfortunes of the French people to their preference of equality before liberty. This opinion had been frequently put forward; and, by candid writers, its truth is not denied. The extenuating argument urged in reply is, that the existence of privileged orders up to

the end of the last century, and the great relief consequent upon their destruction, had induced the French to exaggerate the benefits of equality. M. DE TOCQUEVILLE himself supplies ample justification of this remark. He shows that, if the French people have been misled by a passion for equality, all those classes of persons believing themselves to be something better than people, had been depraved by the appetite for privilege. The middle classes, despised by the nobles, scorned the *tiers état*. If retribution were the true object of political change, France had suffered more than she has ever since avenged.

Reform, however, and not retribution, is the true object of political change. But what is the animating thought of all those liberals who pant for the downfall of the Empire? Have they spent the period of their sorrow in preparing for the day in which France shall be released and suffered once more to choose laws and administration for herself? If they have not, if the public in France is persuaded that they have not, that is a sufficient plea for the continuance of the existing system. We are well aware that every party dreads to be the successor of the Empire. When the unnatural tension ceases—when the men who have been irretrievably injured return to France with nothing but the memory of their wrongs—when the gigantic mockeries of the past five years have been popularly exposed—when the necessity of reconstructing the State, and the opportunity of punishment have arrived together, with vast gaps in finance to restore, and large classes to appease, which the Empire has maintained from artificial funds, there will be work to do from which temerity itself might shrink; but France is worth the labour and the risk. At least it is the duty of the liberal party not to let the new crisis come upon them unprepared.

They knew what was the part taken by M. DE TOCQUEVILLE during the debates on the Constitution, and during the siege of Rome. But he is not less their historical Mentor. They cannot refuse to hear M. DE MONTALEMBERT, when he utters that which is worthy of himself and his age, merely because they remember that in the tribune which was struck from under his feet he had preached the doctrines of reaction, and promoted the interests of conspiracy. M. DE TOCQUEVILLE, then, may be listened to as though he had never been false to the liberty he affects to love. He tells the French liberals that it is their task to establish freedom, and that freedom will give them whatever equality is possible in an organized community. They have not only to extirpate privileges, but to acknowledge and sanction rights; not to destroy authority, but to distribute it! "The idea of forming a single class of all the citizens would have pleased RICHELIEU," said MIRABEAU. The confusion of classes, the abolition of titles, the punishment of old middle-class arrogance by new working-class ostentation, the annihilation of artificial aristocracy, without replacing it by any other balancing element, all this may be effected; the passion for equality may be satisfied; but while "the love of freedom frequently changes its aspect, wanes and waxes, grows or declines, with the course of events," any constitution established in France, must be liable to suffer from the perfidy of its magistrates and the folly of its natural defenders.

These are some of the preliminary reflections that occur when we ask—How are the liberal party in France preparing for that opportunity which must come, and may come sooner than they hope—sooner even than they desire?

#### THE RISING AGAINST THE INCOME-TAX.

THE Income-tax is one of the badges of the subjugation of the English people. It has become a retribution for the working class upon the middle class, although in truth some part of the working class suffers from it directly, and multitudes indirectly. It is not a tax that any people would impose upon its own shoulders. A ratable contribution out of income or means, indeed, is what a community bent upon raising cash might very well devise for itself. We have known cases of rates levied on that principle; as, for example, in the 'landward' parishes of Glasgow. But the Income-tax is not an impost assessed in proportion to income and means; it is assessed in disproportion to income and means. The man of 99*l.* 19*s.* per annum pays nothing; the man of 100*l.* 1*s.* pays 6*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* The professional man, whose business compels him to live in an expensive manner, drags money out of his pocket for expenses which the Commissioners would not recognize, they are so mingled with personal expenditure; yet he has to pay the same rate which is charged upon the independent man, who gets his money as if it were from heaven, and can choose his residence in the cheapest place he can find. The Englishman of 'just three hundred pounds a year,' basking on the shores of Sicily, and the Englishman who is constantly overtaking the day amid the omnibuses, cabs, and eating-houses, the rates and taxes of London, are treated as equals. Certainly the men themselves would not recognize any such quality. The Londoner would look upon the Anglo-Sicilian as a gentleman of ease; the Anglo-Sicilian would look down upon the Londoner as a 'person' obviously in a lower grade of society.

The still humbler classes have not escaped; although there is a profession of relieving them. At the city meeting on Saturday, Mr. WINTER stated his own case. He is in receipt of just a hundred a year, but he has to support four children, a blind wife, and an aged grandmother; and in no sense could he be considered a fit subject for such a tax. We have within our own knowledge cases of people who have been charged without even the legal pretext, but charged peremptorily. One is a man who supports himself and wife upon 70*l.* a year, but they have a son, who is in a perfectly separate employment, supports himself, and does but lodge with his parents; yet because the income of the lodger is also some 70*l.* a year, the father is called upon to pay the tax upon 140*l.* Another is a man who, making but 70*l.* or 80*l.*, is gradually drifting into insolvency; but the Commissioner, seeking whom he may devour, chooses to assume that the man 'cannot' support himself and family, in the house they occupy, under something above 100*l.* a year; so tax is charged; and the man is relieved only by the consummation of his insolvency. Nor are these isolated cases; columns, pages could be filled with the recital.

Why is it that the tax is so unjustly administered? All Income-tax commissioners are not wicked men. In some places the collectors may be harsh and dishonest, but in others they exercise a fairness, a carefulness, and a transparent honesty which receives but little credit in their pay. Why is it then that commissioners and collectors appear to be in a conspiracy for the purpose of inflicting an unjust tax. It is because the tax is in its very nature unjust; and the effort to develop its full resources drags its iniquity at the very roots. In our extremely complicated trading and social system, it is absolutely impossible either to ascertain the income of individuals, or to classify the enormous variety. For those two reasons alone

the tax, which happens to be such as it is intended in the case of one man, is wrong and oppressive in the case of nineteen or ninety-nine other men. It is a bungle from first to last. It has become a conflict of evasion on one side, and assumption on the other.

But that is far from being the worst. In the desire to get at 'the truth' according to the Budget, the officers of the Income-tax go prying about into the private affairs of people, play the eavesdropper, pick up tittle-tattle, and make up a story better or worse. The Income-tax tribunal has become an inquisition, its officers an army of domestic spies; and the English people, who might throw off this most odious oppression, are learning to content themselves with sneaking evasions. The ultimate moral results are far worse than the hardships of the tax.

The impost is wrong financially, since it is impossible to ascertain, with any degree of accuracy or elasticity, the true nature and amount of individual income. It is absolutely impossible to assess the impost on the principle of a rating. If you want to tax a man according to his enjoyment of means, tax his *expenditure*, tax the commodities on which he lays out his money. All the evils resulting from taxation on consumption arise solely when the taxes are imposed heavily upon one article and lightly upon another, so as to force the purchaser in his choice, and to interfere with the natural movements of the market. If the whole amount of taxes to be levied be fairly imposed upon articles of consumption and use, with a practical equality all round, in proportion to the market value, a man will as readily lay out his money in one direction as in another; there will be no interference with the movement of the market; and we shall have the exact correlative of an income-tax—taxation upon expenditure.

But this would cause some trouble to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It would need a practical knowledge of trade and its commodities. It would require some ingenuity. And since we only take our Chancellors out of the high walks of literature, or out of families whose parents have retired from trade, or out of that still more exalted class who are hereditary legislators, and thus literally heaven-born, we cannot expect to have, as Finance Minister, a business man who understands trade and sympathizes with the people.

The Income-tax was a useful instrument for effecting a temporary purpose. Whatever pedantry may preach about the virtue of direct taxation, it becomes essentially vicious as soon as it becomes lasting; and no people who managed its own affairs, would tolerate such a burden. The continuance of the Income-tax is the one sufficing proof that the English people does *not* manage its own affairs. No, our affairs are managed for us, not even by Parliament; for the puppet character of the House of Commons is now an established fact. Members and constituencies are taken in and done for by those who have made the business of election a trade. The effect is, to place the management of the country, its government at home and abroad, its whole wealth and patronage, in the hands of a very few men indeed. Two dinner parties, one for the Ministerial side and one for the Opposition side, would give us the whole number of 'statesmen' who, between them, arrange our affairs for us,—who dictate to us what we shall do in Parliament or in Europe, and tell us what to pay. Poor Mrs. SWYNKEN, whose counsel, the other day, surrendered an estate for her, assuming that she did not know her own mind, and telling her that the best had been done for her,—that poor lady was the exact counterpart of the

British nation, whose counsel alienates its property, makes compromises, and then sends it in the bill of costs. If the middle class had stood by the great body of the people, and had rendered the representation more truly national, the great tax-paying multitude, the middle class, would not have been thus at the mercy of the administration. The Income-tax we pay is the fine for our political sins; we cannot relieve ourselves from the fine without exposing our political disorganization; we cannot hope to get rid of the Income-tax until we call out the people itself. The two things go completely together. If there is to be really a great public movement, let us have it; and then we shall have Income-tax, not reduced, but repealed, and also something like that complement of the Reform Bill which was promised to the people in the Birmingham Bull-ring, but of which they have been defrauded ever since.

#### FRANCE IN PERSIA.

A VERY absurd paragraph has been permitted to appear in the columns of *Le Pays*, asserting a claim on the part of France to the island of Karrak, the Icarus of classical geographers. According to our 'inspired' contemporary, who has evidently studied to some purpose the fable of the dog in the manger, this islet was ceded to the French consul at Bus-sorah, in 1769, by KERIM KHAN, "probably the wisest of the sovereigns who have reigned over Persia in modern times." The cession of Karrak would, perhaps, not generally be accepted as an illustration, or proof, of that monarch's wisdom, were it not at the same time borne in mind that at that period the con-jacent islands of Karrak and Kishm were in the possession of the Arabs, and not, even nominally, a dependence of the Persian crown. Were it otherwise, it is strange that no objection to the occupation of that post by British troops was made in 1838. The silence preserved on that occasion is certainly not attributable to any partiality for *perfidie Albion* entertained by the Ministers of LOUIS PHILIPPE. Besides, there must surely be some political statute of limitation. It does not appear that the French flag ever floated over any of the rocky islands in the Persian Gulf, and at the commencement of the present century FUTTEH ALI SHAH expressly prohibited "any of the great men of the French nation" from obtaining "a place of residence, or dwelling, in any of the islands or shores of the kingdom of Persia." A few years later, MIRZA REZA, ambassador from the Court of Teheran to NAPOLEON, was instructed to offer the co-operation of a Persian army for the invasion of Khorassan, but warned not to concede any *pied à terre* to this new ally: "If the French require a station or port in the province of Fars for their passage to Hindoostan, do not consent." Such an injunction would have been quite superfluous had either of the contracting parties looked upon Karrak as an appanage of France. But in aiming at being official, the *Pays* never attains higher than being officious. It is only a waste of time to construct a battery against its unreal mirage of battlements.

The appointment of Sir JAMES OUTRAM, "the Bayard of the East," as he was called by the late Sir CHARLES NAPIER, clearly indicates the intention of Government to act with decision. In the ordinary course of events, the command of the expedition would have devolved on Brigadier STALKER, an estimable mediocrity, quite capable of permanently occupying a barren island. But from the hurried departure of General OUTRAM, before even his health was thoroughly restored, it is evident that events are anti-

pated of some magnitude and importance. The time has perhaps arrived when the Sepoy and the Cossack shall decide by arms the future destinies of Central Asia. All that England demands is the unbiased independence of Persia. She seeks neither political nor moral control, but the establishment of a strong neutral government between the Aras and the Indus. Such, however, is not the design of the Muscovite. The weakness of her neighbours is the opportunity of Russia. By stirring up foreign wars and internal commotions she has reduced to a mere shadow the once powerful kingdom of NADIR SHAH. A little more compression, a little more deglutition, and the coils of the Northern constrictor would lie along the frontiers of British India. To avert such a contingency is the ultimate object of the present expedition to the Persian Gulf.

#### THE WORKING OF THE COUNTY POLICE ACT.

THE County Police Act, passed last year, is now being brought into operation, the magistracy of the various counties being resolved, to all appearance, to give the most complete effect to the intentions of the Legislature. It will be remembered that the appointment of chief constables rests with these gentlemen, who have no doubt abundant means of testing the qualifications of the candidates—generally unattached military men, for whom the act provides, not only an adequate salary, but a highly honourable position. It would have been a serious mistake to have created, in the post of chief constable of the county police, an office which a gentleman would have been unable to fill.

The law, apparently, allows great latitude to the magistrates charged with the task of carrying out its provisions. It is *rather* an enabling than a compulsory act, so that its success depends entirely upon the methods adopted by the local administrators of the several counties. Indeed, the provinces have been hitherto insecure, less on account of particular deficiencies in the law, than on account of the imperfect and irregular system adopted to protect life and property, by placing one district with another under the reasonable surveillance of the police. We have met with a printed statement on this subject, from the pen of Captain ACHESON, which is confirmative of some views we put forward when the Government bill was under discussion in Parliament. Captain ACHESON lays the utmost stress upon the adoption, not only of a proper management and supervision with regard to each county force, but also upon the establishment of a complete system of communication between the Metropolitan, Borough, and County Police.

The first duty of a chief constable, then, according to this view, would be to have the county in which he is stationed mapped out, and to familiarize himself with every part of it. He should distribute the men under his command into detachments and guards, and patrols should be organized to keep the country under inspection day and night. Visits should be made to these patrols at uncertain periods, and the result of such supervision, together with all other matters relating to them, should be reported to headquarters weekly as well as monthly, with nominal and numerical returns, &c. Forms similar to those used in the army, such as pay, forage, and contingent accounts, would simplify the receipt and discharge of all monetary accounts connected with the maintenance of the constabulary.

In the able memorandum from which we borrow these views, it is proposed to extend the scope of the constable's activity, so that the county police, besides being employed to

prevent frauds, the future measure, ACHESON we have formed with a vociferous McHA which made r and duties unions, robber workh for the county author any de spect ferer, by vagr applying lodging their re Even is the p munic and Me to be i of whic police other: to detect upon in ing ve vestiga ries an tive, in the end demon some s new Ac the pur applied, who is usually of main over on maraud mitted; them fr guardia the cas no inf therefo Austr The life an crime, for the us cons titution penden together and we a formi magistr social s especial DESTIN A CORN News, a of a lit turing li fire whi supper; brought ance, th usually burned are spo



prevent outrage, robbery, incendiarism, and frauds upon the excise, would assume also the functions of inspectors of weights and measures and surveyors of roads. Captain ACHESON adds, also, 'lodging-houses;' but we hardly see how such a duty could be performed by county constables. We agree with him far more cordially when he advocates the general adoption of Captain McHARDY's system carried out in Essex, by which the inspectors of police are not only made responsible for the inspection of weights and measures, but are required to do the duties of assistant-relieving officers to the unions. By these means the professional robber is prevented from obtaining from the workhouse that assistance which is intended for the honest poor, and the burdens of the county are lightened in proportion. The authorities quoted on this subject "do not in any degree differ in their opinions with respect to the means of suppressing petty pilfering, or the more serious crimes committed by vagrants who have been in the habit of applying to the unions for relief and a night's lodging, professing to be merely travellers on their road to obtain employment."

Even more important than this, however, is the proposal to establish an effective communication between the County, Borough, and Metropolitan Police. Those bodies ought to be in continual correspondence; instead of which, they continually act apart. The police of one county are powerless in another: in one county an offender is exposed to detection, in another he may almost reckon upon impunity. But if a proper understanding were established, any given line of investigation would be carried across boundaries and jurisdictions, infringing no prerogative, invading no local rights, serving only the ends of justice and social safety. It is demonstrable to a certainty that, unless some scheme of the kind be adopted, the new Act will be only partially available for the purposes to which it was intended to be applied. Of this, any one must be convinced who is familiar with the circumstances that usually attend rural crime, and the difficulty of maintaining an adequate superintendence over one county exposed to the visitation of marauders from the next. A burglary is committed; the offenders escape; the police track them from Sussex to Surrey; in Surrey the guardians of life and order know nothing of the case, take no interest in it, and can give no information. Your Sussex constable, therefore, might as well pursue his object in Australia.

The public interest in the protection of life and property, and the punishment of crime, is one; and the public organization for these purposes should be one also. Let us conserve to the utmost our municipal institutions, our local laws, the English independence of our counties; but let them act together, where all are equally concerned, and we feel convinced the new Act will be a formidable power in the hands of the magistracy for the establishment of that social security of which the rural districts especially have been so long deprived.

#### DESTRUCTION OF CHILDREN IN ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us, in the *Bridport News*, as the account of an inquest on the body of a little boy, a painful scene of manufacturing life and death. The boy's clothes caught fire while his sister was frying some fish for supper; and although the children's shrieks brought neighbours promptly to their assistance, the burning proved to be fatal; as it usually is, from the 'shock.' Children are burned in other towns, but in Bridport there are special reasons for the frequency of this

particular accident. At the time of the disaster there were three children in the house—MARY ANNA MALE, aged ten years, the sister who was acting as housekeeper; HENRY, aged nine; and GEORGE, aged six. In speaking of their occupations, the daughter said, "Father goes for fish." Their mother is always out. The girl herself goes to the business of turning, from six o'clock in the morning until nine at night; and so does her brother HENRY. Early years for such long labour and household cares!

The Ten-hours Bill has been spoken of as an interference with 'freedom of trade;' it is, however, in its most stringent enactments, only a counteractive to the reverse of freedom—to compulsion. Parents who are ignorant and needy believe their interest to lie in early farming the industry of their children as soon as possible. The Ten-hours Bill first secured freedom to those who, as children and women, are under bondage. It is, however, our correspondent says, evaded in the district, because the children are employed, not in factories strictly so called, but in *covered sheds*. It would be hard, indeed, to charge the death of the little boy to the negligence of his sister, or his parents. A girl ten years of age, whose faculties are strained by labour from six in the morning to nine at night—who then finds household duties to perform—can scarcely be the one to keep watch upon a restless infant. The toil is rendered the worse by its monotony. In this case it consisted of twirling a wheel for twelve hours at a time, interrupted by a run now and then "to gather up the ends after the men."

Of course, in such a district children are not destroyed by accident of fire alone; there is a constant undermining of mind and life. We say nothing of the neglect of education in its broadest sense; we speak only of the stunted intellect and the actual murder.

### Open Council.

(IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.)

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

#### THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The fact which proves that the moon does rotate, namely, it always presents the same face to the earth, is by some minds so misinterpreted as to seem to them to prove the reverse. It was with the object of correcting this misapprehension that I, with your kind permission, proposed two very rude, although conclusive, experiments to such of your readers as might be interested in the question. In these experiments the basin is, because held with the same side always towards the experimenter, made to rotate on its axis. The water and the straw are made use of to prove this fact; the fact affirmed and denied in the controversy, namely, a body, which in revolving round another body always presents the same face to it, must also rotate on its own axis. In the first experiment, the water remaining at rest, has an apparent motion, on account of the real motion of the basin containing it. In the second experiment, the water being made to rotate on its axis in the same time that the basin does, like it appears to the experimenter to be at rest, because the same part of it is always towards him. Your correspondent, "John Taylor," made two remarks, which, as I do not understand them, I must request him to excuse my not giving them any answer.

I really do not know of any "relative or subordinate motion depending on the primary motion of the earth," which the moon has. I believe, too, the proposition would be as new to Sir W. Herschell as it is to myself.

I am also quite at a loss to see why the "revolutions which every thing, large or small, on the earth, considered as separate from the mass of the earth," makes, should not "be considered axial."

This confession will, I know, be the occasion of much mirth to some sturdy astronomical heretics. So be it. Laughing is a much more profitable em-

ployment than running one's head against such stone walls as the doctrine of the moon's rotation.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM KENWARD.

#### THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

20th November, 1856.

SIR,—Your correspondent Mr. Taylor is in the same error as to the "moon's motion" that all the other parties to the controversy have fallen into. They, one and all, forget that the moon's motion round the earth is only an appearance, similar to that of the sun rising. But the fact is, the moon does not really move round the earth at all; but moves, in close company with the earth, around the sun once a year. It is the losing sight of this grand astronomical fact that first led my friend Mr. J. Symons to fancy he had detected a new fact in astronomy.

It is quite evident that as the moon does not really move round the earth, it is equally a solecism to declare that she turns on her axis while moving round the earth, as it is to deny it. Both parties I declare to be in a maze of error. But if the question of the moon's axial motion be mooted, then we may say that in the period of a month's motion, or synodical period (the moon moving in that time through space at the mean rate of 68,000 miles per hour, and going through over 48 millions of miles), she does really rotate once on her axis. This is proved by the fact of her turning during that period every part of her face to the sun—which she could not do if she did not turn round on her axis.

Yours respectfully,

R. J. MORRISON, Lieut. R.N.

10, South-parade, Bath.

DR. DE JONGH.—The King of the Belgians has conferred the dignity of a Knight of the Order of Leopold upon this gentleman, whose name is associated with his useful researches into the nature and properties of Cod Liver Oil. The same sovereign, and also the King of the Netherlands, some time since awarded to Dr. De Jongh Medals of Merit in approval of the services rendered by his investigations.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

MR. SPURGEON ONCE MORE AT THE SURREY GARDENS.—Another sermon was delivered last Sunday morning by Mr. Spurgeon in the Music Hall of the Surrey Gardens—the first time he has appeared there since the terrible catastrophe of October. No more than five or six thousand persons were permitted to enter the building. Mr. Superintendent Lund, assisted by about twenty policemen and some detectives, was present, and everything passed off quietly, though several noted thieves were observed in various parts of the hall. Mr. Spurgeon made no allusion in his sermon (which was less eccentric than usual) to the accident, though in a prayer which preceded it he invoked consolation for the persons bereaved of their relatives, and forgiveness for those with whom the calamity originated. In the course of his sermon he denied that his contemplated new chapel would be capable of holding 15,000 persons. He only desired to accommodate 5000. On this occasion, Mr. Spurgeon was provided with an immense pulpit, which gave him room to walk about at his pleasure.

MRS. SEACOLE, the hospitable *vivandière* of the English army in the Crimea, whose name was venerated and beloved throughout the camp, has become a bankrupt. Surely those who were so generously assisted in their wretchedness by this heroine of the war will do their utmost to assist her now that she is under the shadow of adversity.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE COCKBURN took his seat in the Court of Common Pleas for the first time last Saturday.

DECREASE IN THE YIELD OF SALT.—Mr. Samuel Bracegirdle, a salt proprietor and ship-builder, of Northwich, states that there has been a very great subsidence, within the last few weeks, of the brine in his mines. He attributes this to a sinking of the land in the neighbourhood, causing the brine to flow in a contrary direction.

ROMISH PERVERSIONS.—Mr. John Cumming writes thus to the daily papers:—"A paragraph has appeared in most of the newspapers, stating that the Duchess of Atholl has been received by Dr. Manning (now the Roman Catholic Church. In a more diluted form I read the same statement in several of the Roman Catholic organs also. I have authority for stating that there is no foundation whatever for the report. It may also be as well to add, that it has become a policy not unworthy of Ignatius Loyola to circulate paragraphs announcing new accessions to the Church of Rome in the case of persons of rank, some of which I know are totally devoid of truth. The rumour does its work before the contradiction is known."

THE MAINE LAW MOVEMENT.—A public meeting was held on Monday evening at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, in advocacy of the adoption of the Maine Liquor Law in this country. From seven to eight hundred persons were present. Mr. S. Bowly and Mr. S. Pope were the chief speakers. No speaker on the other side presented himself, and the meeting broke up in a very orderly manner.

## Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

DID anybody ever invent anything? Is there on record one discovery? The Oriental and proverbial sage declared that there was nothing new under the sun—and every man who deludes himself with the belief of having made a discovery, finds that it was known 'long ago.' If to-morrow an overland route to America should be detected, the next week will disclose that Goliath knew of it in the thirteenth century, and that Brown the bag-man spoke familiarly of it in commercial rooms. There is something more than churlish detraction in this. Men are pleased, no doubt, at discovering in anterior records a trace of the new truth, pleased also that they can make that discovery; but apart from all such influences there are the indubitable facts of random guessing on the one hand, and of direct filiation of ideas on the other—two sources sufficient to supply any and every invention with the appearance of an ancestor.

Who invented Nature-Printing? Not Councillor ALOIS AUER, who claims it, at least for the Viennese Printing Office. MR. HENRY BRADBURY has plainly proved so much in the very interesting and elaborate Lecture delivered before the Royal Institution, and now republished with a German translation. "The distinguishing feature of the process consists, firstly, in impressing natural objects, such as plants, mosses, seaweeds, feathers, into plates of metal, causing, as it were, the objects to engrave themselves by pressure; secondly, in being able to take such casts or copies of the impressed plates as can be printed from the ordinary copper-plate press." The first Nature-printer was—Nature herself. She made such accurate impressions of plants on the plates of her coal-beds, that nearly a thousand species of fossil plants have already been identified in these typographical evidences. MR. BRADBURY says:—

Experiments to print direct from Nature were made as far back as about two hundred and fifty years; it is certain therefore that the present successes of the art are mainly attributable to the general advance of science, and the perfection to which it has been brought in particular instances. On account of the great expense attending the production of woodcuts of plants in early times, many naturalists suggested the possibility of making direct use of Nature herself as a copyist. In the *Book of Art*, of Alexis Pedemontanus (printed in the year 1572, and translated into German by Wecker), may be found the first recorded hint as to taking impressions of plants. At a later period, in the *Journal des Voyages*, by M. de Moncoys, in 1650, it is mentioned that one Welkenstein, a Dane, gave instruction in making impressions of plants. The process adopted to produce such results at this period consisted in laying out flat and drying the plants. By holding them over the smoke of a candle, or an oil lamp, they became blackened in an equal manner all over; and by being placed between two soft leaves of paper, and being rubbed down with a smoothing-bone, the soot was imparted to the paper, and the impression of the veins and fibres was so transferred. But though the plants were dried in every case, it was by no means absolutely necessary; as the author has proved by the simple experiment of applying lamp-black or printer's ink to a fresh leaf, and producing a successful impression. LINNÆUS, in his *Philosophia Botanica*, relates that in America, in 1707, impressions of plants were made by Hessel; and later (1728—1757), Professor Kniphof, at Erfurt, (who refers to the experiments of Hessel), in conjunction with the bookseller Funke, established a printing-office for the purpose. He produced a work entitled *Herbarium Vivum*. The range and extent of his work, twelve folio volumes, containing 1200 plates, corroborates the curious fact of a printing-office being required. These impressions were obtained by the substitution of printer's ink for lamp-black, and flat pressure for the smoothing-bone; but a new feature at this time was introduced—that of colouring the impressions by hand according to Nature—a proceeding which, though certainly contributing to the beauty and fidelity of the effect, yet had the disadvantage of frequently rendering indistinct, and even of sometimes totally obliterating, the tender structure and finer veins and fibres. Many persons at the time objected to the indistinctness of such representations, and the absence of the parts of fructification: but it was the decided opinion of LINNÆUS, that to obtain a representation of the difference of species was sufficient.

MR. BRADBURY continues the history with patient minuteness; but the reader must seek it in the pamphlet, our space admits of no further extract. As a history of the various tentatives, it is extremely curious, and fully proves that the Viennese Government has only the credit of applying the invention with more commanding resources.

Who invented Vivaria? Did GOLIATH know them also? Did SCHWEIN-SCHNUPPEN in his *Prodromus* clearly indicate their practicability? Vivaria suddenly eruptive in drawing-rooms, are not fungus-like in their genesis, however they may resemble fungi in rapidity of distribution: whence their origin? DR. LANKESTER in his recent little treatise, *The Aquavivarium*, very much to be recommended to amateurs, hints at differences of opinion on this subject, and adds:—

To whomsoever credit may be given for perfecting these arrangements, I cannot for a moment doubt that the original idea was taken from the success attending the cultivation of plants in closed glass cases, on the plan recommended by Mr. Ward. It was his genius that saw, in the accidental sprouting of a fern in a glass bottle, the means of maintaining fresh vegetation in the midst of the smoke and dirt of London. When he had succeeded in fitting up his first fernery in Wellclose-square, he was not long in discovering, that in the little pools which he so ingeniously constructed there, gold fishes and other creatures would live in the water, provided plants were present, as animals lived in the air of his fernery. The culture of ferns in cases, by Mr. Ward's friends, led naturally to the culture of water-plants in the same cases, and air-breathing and water-breathing animals were introduced, to increase the interest of the scene. As early as June, 1849, Mr. Ward stated, at a meeting of the British Association at Oxford, that he had succeeded, not only in growing sea-weeds in sea-water, but in sea-water artificially made. This must certainly be regarded as the first step towards alizing the marine Aquavivarium. From this time experiments of various kinds

were tried, for the purpose of enabling persons away from the seaside to keep marine animals. A lady in London frequently surprised the scientific societies by exhibiting beautiful living specimens of rare marine animals; and these she succeeded in keeping for many months by aerating the sea-water by pouring it from one vessel to another.

Previous to the year 1850, many experiments had been made in London of keeping sticklebacks, gold fish, and other animals, in jars containing *Valerian*. I find, from some of my own notes, that I had sticklebacks in a jar containing *Valerian* and before the Chemical Society, which was afterwards published in the *Journal* of that Society, in which he described the general conditions necessary to the growth of plants and animals in jars of water, and gave an account of his own arrangements for that purpose.

The practicability of establishing arrangements of this kind has been often discussed in the council of the Zoological Society, and in 1852 they determined to erect, under the skilful guidance of Mr. Mitchell, a house in their gardens in Regent's Park, large enough to hold several water-tanks for marine and fresh-water animals. In the spring of 1853 this house was opened, and at once gave an immense impetus to the establishment of water-vivaries. Most of the marine creatures contained in it were obtained by Mr. Gosse, who had previously cultivated marine animals with plants in sea-water. An account of his experiments is given in his very interesting *Ramblings of a Naturalist on the Devonshire Coast*. In 1854, Mr. Gosse published a beautiful volume, entitled *The Aquarium*, in which he describes minutely the structure and habits of a large number of marine animals adapted for domestication in vessels of sea-water.

After the success of his experiments with fresh-water plants and animals, Mr. Warrington commenced operating upon marine plants and animals with sea-water. In this he has been more successful than any other operator, probably arising from the care with which he constructed his tanks. An account of his experiments is given in the *Annals of Natural History* for November, 1853. Many important hints and suggestions will be found in Mr. Warrington's other papers in the *Annals of Natural History*.

The Vivarium has become so fashionable that the honour of inventing it is worth claiming. MR. H. J. BOHN, who has recently opened an establishment in Essex-street, Strand, for the sale of glass tanks, sea water, and 'marine stores,' has such faith in the extent and solidity of this new branch of commerce, that he announces the publication of a monthly Review devoted exclusively to Vivaria. When a sect is strong enough to support a periodical, it is formidable; when an amusement—and *Natural History* is an amusement to the majority of those who keep Vivaria—can boast of an exclusive 'organ' it must be vigorous indeed. The drama has not been able to support a dramatic periodical for many years. If MR. BOHN's review prospers—which we sincerely hope—it will indicate the existence of a very large public indeed interested in Vivaria. Meanwhile the reader will do well to get DR. LANKESTER's little book.

## AURORA LEIGH.

*Aurora Leigh*. By Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Chapman and Hall.

WHEN, some weeks ago, we anticipated the delight of a new poem from Mrs. Browning, we never, in our keenest expectations, thought of receiving so fine a poem as *Aurora Leigh*, which surpasses in sustained strength and variety, anything English poetry has had since *Childe Harold*. It places Mrs. Browning beyond dispute at the head of all poetesses, ancient or modern, and although it will be judged diversely by diverse minds, no one, we fancy, will venture to claim for any other woman's poem an equal rank.

Having, as justice demands, expressed emphatically our sense of the greatness of *Aurora Leigh*, without stint of phrase, and yet without precipitate or careless eulogy, we must also add that the poem has very many faults, some deeply-seated, some quite superficial and remediable, which faults, perhaps, will give the critics occupation, but will not in any appreciable degree affect the success of the work; for in Art, as in Life, success depends on what is positive, on excellence of some kind; and where this exists no amount of mistake, or incompleteness, can finally prevent recognition. Kean's acting was fuller of faults than that of many a man who never rose above mediocrity; but Kean's genius was of such positive and thrilling influence, that like a meteor he burnt his pathway before the wondering gaze of men, who might on reflection object to the 'irregularity,' but could not, even in reflection, forget the splendour.

We cannot in our scanty limits pretend to criticize *Aurora Leigh*, but certain general points may here be touched, as if we chatted with the reader when the book was closed. And first as to its conception. It is a three-volume novel in verse. This of itself is something new. Scott and Byron told stories in verse; Tennyson in the *Princess* and in *Maud* has also tried his hand at story-telling, with very indifferent success as a story-teller; but no poet—at least we know of none—has represented modern life in such forms as it assumes in modern fiction, no one has sung the novel instead of writing it. *Aurora Leigh* has a story equal in incident, character, and scenery to almost any three-volume novel of the English type. In no respect does it differ from the novel except that it is sung. It sings of our actual life, embodying the schemes and struggles, the opinions and the social contrasts of our day. *Alton Locke* is not more immediately the product of our social condition, nor less idealized.

Whether the poet is right or wrong in thus swerving from the almost universal practice of seeking in distant climes and distant ages for the subject of song, we will not here inquire. Briefly we may suggest that the poet therein should please himself; let us have poems, and not trouble ourselves when they come. *Æschylus*, in writing the *Perse*, never paused to consider whether contemporary events were fitted for ideal treatment; he treated them ideally, and was content. But when we waive that general question, it only brings us to a more direct consideration of the particular instance. We grant Mrs. Browning the utmost licence in her choice only to be more rigorous in our judgment of the subject chosen; and while thinking she was at perfect liberty to write a musical novel, we demand from her the writing of a novel which in itself is good. In proportion as she introduces the elements of ordinary fiction into her poem, she must be criticised by the standards of fiction. No one thinks of objecting to *Childe Harold*, as



the *Excursion*, that the story, as a story, is poor, and not very natural; but everyone feels that the story of *Orlando Furioso* is a part of its enchantment, and was meant to be so; everyone will feel that the story of *Aurora Leigh* is something more than a vehicle for exquisite verse, and was meant to be so—meant to shadow forth truths of life and character. Now if we consider the story of *Aurora Leigh*—apart from its musical utterance—we must admit that, although it draws us onwards, filling the eyes with tears and the heart with sudden beatings of noble emotion, it does nevertheless in several particulars jar and distress the judgment, and, as a novel, is but second-rate. It wants invention. The conduct of the story is such as we have followed in hundreds of novels, not being a wit the truer for its commonplace; and were *Aurora Leigh* written in prose, or in verse less affluent, and musical, and tender, we should throw it aside with no more commendation than is bestowed on second-rate novels.

We propose in this article to tell the story; in a second article our criticism of the poem may be resumed. *Aurora Leigh* is the child of an Englishman of family, and an Italian girl of beauty, who died when *Aurora* was four years old:—

She could not bear the joy of giving life—  
The mother's rapture slew her. If her kiss  
Had left a longer weight upon my lips,  
It might have steadied the uneasy breath,  
And reconciled and fraternized my soul  
With the new order. As it was, indeed,  
I felt a mother-want about the world,  
And still went seeking, like a bleating lamb  
Left out at night, in shutting up the fold,—  
As restless as a nest-deserted bird  
Grown chill through something being away, though what  
It knows not. I, *Aurora Leigh*, was born  
To make my father sadder, and myself  
Not overjoyous, truly. Women know  
The way to rear up children (to be just),  
They know a simple, merry, tender knack  
Of tying sashes, fitting baby-shoes,  
And stringing pretty words that make no sense,  
And kissing full sense into empty words;  
Which things are corals to cut life upon,  
Although such trifles: children learn by such,  
Love's holy earnest in a pretty play,  
And get not over-early solemnized,—  
But seeing, as in a rose-bush, Love's Divine,  
Which burns and hurts not,—not a single bloom,—  
Become aware and unafraid of Love.  
Such good do mothers. Fathers love as well  
—Mine did, I know,—but still with heavier brains,  
And wills more consciously responsible,  
And not as wisely, since less foolishly;  
So mothers have God's license to be missed.

Her father,

Whom love had unmade from a common man,  
But not completed to an uncommon man  
(how subtle that!), reared and educated her in solitude, till, when she was about thirteen, he died. The child was shipped to England, which thus appeared to her Italian eyes:—

Then, land!—then, England! oh, the frosty cliffs  
Looked cold upon me. Could I find a home  
Among those mean red houses through the fog?  
And when I heard my father's language first  
From alien lips which had no kiss for mine,  
I wept aloud, then laughed, then wept, then wept,—  
And some one near me said the child was mad  
Through much sea-sickness. The train swept us on.  
Was this my father's England? the great isle?  
The ground seemed cut up from the fellowship  
Of verdure, field from field, as man from man;  
The skies themselves looked low and positive,  
As almost you could touch them with a hand,  
And dared to do it, they were so far off  
From God's celestial crystals; all things, blurred  
And dull and vague. Did Shakespeare and his mates  
Absorb the light here?—not a hill or stone  
With heart to strike a radiant colour up  
Or active outline on the indifferent air!

I think I see my father's sister stand  
Upon the hall-step of her country-house  
To give me welcome. She stood straight and calm,  
Her somewhat narrow forehead braided tight  
As if for taming accidental thoughts  
From possible pulses; brown hair pricked with grey  
By frigid use of life (she was not old,  
Although my father's elder by a year);  
A nose drawn sharply, yet in delicate lines;  
A close, mild mouth, a little soured about  
The ends, through speaking unrequited loves,  
Or peradventure niggardly half-truths;  
Eyes of no colour,—once they might have smiled,  
But never, never have forgot themselves  
In smiling; cheeks, in which was yet a rose  
Of perished summers, like a rose in a book,  
Kept more for ruth than pleasure,—if past bloom,  
Fast fading also,

She had lived, we'll say,  
A harmless life, she called a virtuous life,  
A quiet life, which was not life at all  
(But that she had not lived enough to know),  
Between the vicar and the county squire,  
The lord-lieutenant looking down sometimes  
From the empyreal, to assure their souls  
Against chance-vulgarisms, and, in the abyss,  
The apothecary looked on once a year,  
To prove their soundness of humility.

The poor-club exercised her Christian gifts  
Of knitting stockings, stitching petticoats,  
Because we are of one flesh after all  
And need one flannel (with a proper sense  
Of difference in the quality),—and still  
The book-club, guarded from your modern trick  
Of shaking dangerous questions from the crease,  
Preserved her intellectual. She had lived  
A sort of cage-bird life, born in a cage,  
Accounting that to leap from perch to perch  
Was act and joy enough for any bird.  
Dear heaven, how silly are the things that live  
In thickets, and eat berries!

The humorous and satirical touches of this passage give indication that the music is not to be wholly in one key; here is another passage from the long and satirical account of her education under the care of this aunt:—

I drew . . . costumes  
From French engravings, nersida neatly draped,  
With smirks of simmering godship,—I washed in  
From nature, landscapes (rather say washed out).  
I danced the polka and Cellarius,  
Spun glass, stuffed birds, and modelled flowers in wax,  
Because she liked accomplishments in girls.  
I read a score of books on womanhood  
To prove, if women do not think at all,  
They may teach thinking (to a maiden-aunt  
Or else the author)—books demonstrating  
Their right of comprehending husband's talk  
When not too deep, and even of answering  
With pretty 'may it please you,' or 'so it is,'—  
Their rapid insight and fine aptitude,  
Particular worth and general missionariness,  
As long as they keep quiet by the fire  
And never say 'no' when the world says 'ay,'  
For that is fatal,—their angelic reach  
Of virtue, chiefly used to sit and darn,  
And fatten household sinners,—their, in brief,  
Potential faculty in everything  
Of abdicating power in it: she owned  
She liked a woman to be womanly,  
And English women, she thanked God and sighed  
(Some people always sigh in thanking God),  
Were models to the universe.

In spite of this, her young and eager soul finds out its proper nourishment; in secret she reads all the better books, and in secret begins to write poetry to which she feels the irresistible vocation. Her cousin Romney Leigh, heir to the Leigh estates, loves her, and she loves him, but when he tells her of his love, he does it with the arrogance and infelicity of youth, which stings her pride, and she refuses him. The fact is, he has given his soul to philanthropic schemes; to ameliorate the social condition of his age has become the dream and passion of his life, and although he loves his cousin, he lets her plainly see he wants her as a helper in his work, even more than as a wife. This is very subtly conceived. It is just the sort of pedantic error to which youth is liable. It is just the sort of error to offend a woman's pride. But although we think the situation finely conceived, it is imperfectly presented; and the *tone* of the conversation on both sides is not like truth—we do not mean the literal truth of daily talk, but ideal truth of passion and poetry. The reader has a sense of the whole being, as in novels, a mere device of the writer to separate hero and heroine in order that the story may take its course; not as the inevitable utterance of two human souls. She rejects her cousin, and is resolved to dedicate her life to poetry. Her aunt is furious with her for such folly; but she is resolute; and the life she led in consequence is thus graphically hinted:—

The next week passed in silence, so the next,  
And several after: Romney did not come,  
Nor my aunt chide me. I lived on and on,  
As if my heart were kept beneath a glass,  
And everybody stood, all eyes and ears,  
To see and hear it tick. I could not sit,  
Nor walk, nor take a book, nor lay it down,  
Not sew on steadily, nor drop a stitch  
And a sigh with it, but I felt her looks  
Still cleaving to me, like the sucking asp  
To Cleopatra's breast, persistently  
Through the intermittent pantings. Being observed,  
When observation is not sympathy,  
Is just being tortured. If she said a word,  
A 'thank you,' or an 'if it please you, dear,'  
She meant a commination, or at best,  
An exorcism against the devilom  
Which plainly held me. So with all the house.  
Susannah could not stand and twist my hair,  
Without such glancing at the looking-glass  
To see my face there, that she missed the plait:  
And John,—I never sent my plate for soup,  
Or did not send it, but the foolish John  
Resolved the problem, 'twixt his napkin'd thumbs,  
Of what was signified by taking soup  
Or choosing mackerel. Neighbours, who dropped in  
On morning visits, feeling a joint wrong,  
Smiled admonition, sate uneasily,  
And talked with measured, emphasised reserve,  
Of parish news, like doctors to the sick,  
When not called in,—as if, with leave to speak,  
They might say something. Nay, the very dog  
Would watch me from his sun-patch on the floor,  
In alternation with the large black fly  
Not yet in reach of snapping. So I lived.

And one morning, some weeks after:—

Then, suddenly, a single ghastly shriek  
Tore upwards from the bottom of the house.  
Like one who wakens in a grave and shrieks,

The still house seemed to shriek itself alive,  
And shudder through its passages and stairs  
With slam of doors and clash of bells.—I sprang,  
I stood up in the middle of the room,  
And there confronted at my chamber-door,  
A white face,—shivering, ineffectual lips.

'Come, come,' they tried to utter, and I went;  
As if a ghost had drawn me at the point  
Of a fiery finger through the uneven dark,  
I went with reeling footsteps down the stair,  
Nor asked a question.

There she sate, my aunt,—  
Bolt upright in the chair beside her bed,  
Whose pillow had no dint! she had used no bed  
For that night's sleeping . . . yet slept well. My God,  
The dumb derision of that grey, peaked face  
Concluded something grave against the sun,  
Which filled the chamber with its July burst  
When Susan drew the curtains, ignorant  
Of who sate open-eyed behind her. There,  
She sate . . . it sate . . . we said 'she' yesterday . . .  
And held a letter with unbroken seal,  
As Susan gave it to her hand last night:  
All night she had held it. If its news referred  
To duchies or to dunghills, not an inch  
She'd budge, 'twas obvious, for such worthless odds:  
Nor, though the stars were suns, and overburned  
Their spheric limitations, swallowing up  
Like wax the azure spaces, could they force  
Those open eyes to wink once. What last sight  
Had left them blank and flat so,—drawing out  
The faculty of vision from the roots,  
As nothing more, worth seeing, remained behind?  
Were those the eyes that watched me, worried me?  
That dogged me up and down the hours and days,  
A beaten, breathless, miserable soul?  
And did I pray, a half-hour back, but so,  
To escape the burden of those eyes . . . those eyes?  
'Sleep late' I said.—

Why now, indeed, they sleep.  
God answers sharp and sudden on some prayers,  
And thrusts the thing we have prayed for in our face,  
A gauntlet with a gift in't. Every wish  
Is like a prayer . . . with God.

I had my wish,—  
To read and meditate the thing I would,  
To fashion all my life upon my thought,  
And marry, or not marry. Henceforth, none  
Could disapprove me, vex me, hamper me.  
Full ground-room, in this desert newly made,  
For Babylon or Balbec,—when the breath,  
Just choked with sand, returns, for building towns!

The letter held unopened in the hand of the corpse was a gift from Romney Leigh of thirty thousand pounds—given of course that it might be inherited by Aurora, who was a beggar. But she refuses to accept the gift. The scene between them is so unnatural in tone, though true enough in conception, that should these lines meet Mrs. Browning's eye, we urgently beg her to reconsider the scene, with a view to expression only, and see if she cannot remove the levities, irrelevancies, and unrealities, which produce an impression on us precisely similar to that produced by scenes in unreal novels. Aurora may refuse the gift, but not in those terms, and preserve our sympathy.

Aurora then becomes a poetess, lives in London, and is celebrated. Romney turns more resolutely to social schemes; founds a phalanstery, and to signalize before the world his disapproval of all social distinctions, is about to marry a 'distressed needlewoman' whom he found at the hospital, and has since befriended. We pass over the episode of Marian's life—wonderfully told—but uncommonly like what we have often read before—and arrive at the wedding:—

Half St. Giles in frieze  
Was bidden to meet St. James in cloth of gold,  
And, after contract at the altar, pass  
To eat a marriage-feast on Hampstead Heath.  
Of course the people came in unimpelled,  
Lame, blind, and worse—sick, sorrowful, and worse,  
The humours of the peccant social wound  
All pressed out, poured out upon Pimlico,  
Exasperating the unaccustomed air  
With hideous interfusion: you'd suppose  
A finished generation, dead of plague,  
Swept outward from their graves into the sun,  
The moil of death upon them. What a sight!  
A holiday of miserable men  
Is sadder than a burial-day of kings.  
They clogged the streets, they oozed into the church  
In a dark, slow stream, like blood. To see that sight,  
The noble ladies stood up in their pews,  
Some pale for fear, a few as red for hate,  
Some simply curious, some just insolent,  
And some in wondering scorn.—'What next? what next?'  
These crushed their delicate rose-lips from the smile  
That misbecame them in a holy place,  
With brodered hems of perfumed handkerchiefs;  
Those passed the salts with confidence of eyes  
And simultaneous shiver of *moiré* silk;  
While all the aisles, alive and black with heads,  
Crawled slowly toward the altar from the street,  
As bruised snakes crawl and hiss out of a hole  
With shuddering involutions, swaying slow  
From right to left, and then from left to right,  
In pants and pauses. What an ugly crest  
Of faces rose upon you everywhere

From that crammed mass! you did not usually  
See faces like them in the open day:  
They hide in cellars, not to make you mad  
As Romney Leigh is.—Faces!—O my God,  
We call those, faces? Men's and women's . . . ay,  
And children's;—babies, hanging like a rag  
Forgotten on their mother's neck,—poor mouths,  
Wiped clean of mother's milk by mother's blow,  
Before they are taught her cursing. Faces! . . . phew,  
We'll call them vices festering to despair,  
Or sorrows petrifying to vices; not  
A finger-touch of God left whole on them;  
All ruined, lost—the countenance worn out  
As the garments, the will dissolute as the acts,  
The passions loose and dragging in the dirt  
To trip the foot up at the first free step!—  
Those, faces! 'twas as if you had stirred up hell  
To heave its lowest dreg-fiends uppermost  
In fiery swirls of slime,—such strangled fronts,  
Such obdurate jaws were thrown up constantly,  
To twit you with your race, corrupt your blood,  
And grind to devilish colours all your dreams  
Henceforth, . . . though, haply, you should drop asleep  
By clink of silver waters, in a muse  
On Raffael's mild Madonna of the Bird.

But the bride never comes. The machinations of a lovely devil—Lady Waldemar—have frustrated this match—Marian disappears. Time passes. Aurora grows more and more famous, and is to be met in London drawing-rooms:—

It always makes me sad to go abroad;  
And now I'm sadder that I went to-night  
Among the lights and talkers at Lord Howe's.  
His wife is gracious, with her glossy braids,  
And even voice, and gorgeous eyeballs, calm  
As her other jewels. If she's somewhat cold,  
Who wonders, when her blood has stood so long  
In the dual reservoir she calls her line  
By no means arrogantly? she's not proud;  
Not prouder than the swan is of the lake  
He has always swum in;—'tis her element,  
And so she takes it with a natural grace,  
Ignoring tadpoles. She just knows, perhaps,  
There are men, move on without outsiders,  
Which isn't her fault. Ah, to watch her face,  
When good Lord Howe expounds his theories  
Of social justice and equality—  
'Tis curious, what a tender, tolerant bend  
Her neck takes: for she loves him, likes his talk,  
'Such clever talk—that dear, odd Algernon!'  
She listens on, exactly as if he talked  
Some Scandinavian myth of Lemures,  
Too pretty to dispute, and too absurd.

What novelist has better sketched an English beauty, one not overwied?  
Again:—

How lovely One I loved not, looked to-night!  
She's very pretty, Lady Waldemar.  
Her maid must use both hands to twist that coil  
Of tresses, then be careful lest the rich  
Bronze rounds should slip:—she missed, though, a grey hair,  
A single one,—I saw it; otherwise  
The woman looked immortal. How they told  
Those alabaster shoulders and bare breasts,  
On which the pearls, drowned out of sight in milk,  
Were lost, excepting for the ruby-clasp!  
They split the amaranth velvet bodice down  
To the waist, or nearly, with the audacious press  
Of full-breathed beauty. If the heart within  
Were half as white!—but, if it were, perhaps  
The breast were closer covered, and the sight  
Less aspectable, by half, too.

Our limits are already exceeded; we must therefore merely add, in a sentence or so, that Aurora hearing a rumour of Romney's intended marriage with Lady Waldemar, quits England for Italy. In Paris she meets with Marian—and very beautiful is the story Marian tells, and the emotions she expresses—but we cannot linger over them. The two women go to Italy, with Marian's child, Romney comes there too, blind, disabled, having had Leigh Hall burnt to the ground by the very wretches he was sacrificing himself to benefit, and now with full consciousness of his failure as a social reformer, hears from Aurora that she too is conscious of failure, since with all her success in Art, she has failed in life, he is not happy. The two lovers then finally understand each other, and "live happy all the rest of their days."

Next week we shall resume our notice.

#### PRESCOTT ON THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES V.

*History of the Reign of Charles the Fifth.* By William Robertson, D.D. With an Account of the Emperor's Life after his Abdication, by William H. Prescott. 2 vols. Routledge.

DR. ROBERTSON devoted six or seven pages of his history to an account of the retirement of Charles V. Those few pages are full of error. Nor was it possible that Dr. Robertson should have been more accurate or copious. He could not have been more accurate without consulting the sealed archives of Simancas, and he could not have been more copious without trusting to the illiterate monkish chroniclers. Several years ago, however, the custodian of the Simancas records, dissatisfied with the historical views that had been published concerning the latter days of Charles, prepared for the press a volume of authentic materials, derived from the correspondence of the emperor and his household. He died before publishing the work, which passed into the hands of his brother. That gentleman set so high a price upon the manuscript, that it remained for a long time without a purchaser. At length the French Government bought it for the Archives



*des Affaires Etrangères*, under the direction of M. Mignet. M. Mignet, however, was engaged in another field, so that the first use made of the inedited work was by Mr. Stirling, who, after a pilgrimage to Yuste, and an inspection of Murray's Handbook of Spain, was guided to Paris, and supplied with matter for his *Cloister Life of Charles V.* Then came M. Amédée Pichot's *Chronicle*, M. Gachard's documentary volume, M. Mignet's pictorial panegyric, one of the most ingenious and least reliable of the series. Mr. Prescott, taking advantage of all these contributions to a complete history of the imperial retirement, has consulted at every step the contemporary records, so as to present an original and conscientious view of the emperor's character, as illustrated after his abdication. He agrees more closely with Mr. Stirling than with any other of his predecessors. Mr. Stirling could not recognize in the stingy, greedy, and superstitious recluse of Yuste the heroic monarch of M. Mignet's narrative. That his conception is the correct one, Mr. Prescott amply proves. The parallel once drawn between Charles and Lear was complimentary to the Estramaduran devotee.

No scene in history is more striking than that of Charles V. celebrating his own obsequies, except, perhaps, that of Charles IV. grovelling over the coffin of his wife in the tombs of the Escorial. Mr. Prescott does not agree to reject the account of this singular eccentricity; but rather places it on a level with the other historical anecdotes of the emperor's retirement. During the whole of this period, indeed, the conduct of Charles was in no way that of a man incapable of an act of madness. He continually eat himself into a surfeit, and drank himself into insensibility. When, having determined to uncrown himself after the capture of Tunis in 1535, and after the death of his wife, he set out for the Jeronimite monastery of Yuste, it was with clouded spirits and in broken health. He selected, for his seclusion, a dim solitude, environed by oak and chestnut forests, and, though preparing for a life of humility, was never more arrogant and self-willed than when he laid down his imperial power. An opulent citizen of Medina del Campo, entertaining the emperor during his progress, warned his apartment with a brazier of solid gold, fed with sticks of cinnamon. As the Emperor happened not to like cinnamon, he refused to salute his host upon leaving, and ordered him to be paid like a common innkeeper. But he never failed to accept the trout and eels that were caught for his table by the loyal peasantry, and though he talked, by the way, about simplicity and death, he listened eagerly to flying rumours from the frontier, and invariably enjoyed his dinners.

In fact, it might be believed, without a libel on the emperor's character, that he loved the place of his retirement because he could there sit, sleep, eat, and drink in peace—and plenty. Neither Louis XIV. nor Frederick II. had a mightier appetite than this recluse, weary of the world. Before rising in the morning he eat potted capon, dressed with sugar, milk, and spices, after which he dosed again. At noon, he was served with a variety of dishes, and in the evening with an abundance of anchovies and sardines, or something else "gross and savoury." The cooks were grievously perplexed by his caprice, since he desired richer and more highly seasoned preparations every day. At last his *maître d'hôtel*, in despair, vowed that "he really knew not what to do, unless he might serve up his Majesty a fricassee of watches." For the emperor delighted in a watch as much as in an anchovy. He drank in proportion. In the morning, before leaving his bed, he often took a deep draught of iced beer, and all his life he had been fond of Rhenish wine. Roger Ascham, when in Germany, was at the festival of the Golden Fleece, and was struck with astonishment and veneration by the long and strong potations of the great emperor. "He drank the best that I ever saw. He had his head in the glass five times as long as any of us, and never drank less than a good quart at once of Rhenish."

It was in vain that his physician remonstrated, and that his confessor, Cardinal Loaysa, with an independence which did him credit, admonished him to desist from the pernicious practice of eating and drinking to excess, reminding him that his Creator had not sent him into the world to indulge in sensual delights, but by his diligent labours to save the Christian commonwealth. Charles gave as little heed to the warnings of the divine as to those of the doctor. Unfortunately, his position enabled him too easily to obtain a dispensation from those fasts of the Church which might otherwise have stood him in good stead. In the end came the usual heavy reckoning for such indulgence. He was tormented with indigestion, bile, gout, and various other maladies that flesh—especially when high-fed and over-fed—is heir to. The gout was the most formidable of his foes. Its attacks were incessant. The man who had followed the chase without fatigue among the roughest passes of the Alps, who had kept the saddle day and night in his campaigns, and had been esteemed one of the best joustiers in Europe, was obliged at length, whenever he travelled, to be borne in a litter, like a poor cripple. Care and excessive toil had combined with his intemperate way of life to break down a constitution naturally robust; and, before he had reached the age of fifty, Charles was already an old man.

In the monastic retirement of Yuste he clung to these gluttonous passions. Almost daily did the secretaries introduce, in their reports to Valladolid, allusions to the imperial kitchens and cellars. Political couriers were sent far out of their way to procure the particular delicacies prized at Jarandilla. The trout caught near Yuste being small, Charles sent to Valladolid for a larger sort. He had a tender appetite for fish, for eels, frogs, and oysters:—

Potted fish, especially anchovies, found great favour with him; and he regretted that he had not brought a better supply of these from the Low Countries. On an eel-pasty he particularly doted. Good supplies of these savoury abominations were furnished, from time to time, from the capital, by his daughter, who thus made amends for the remissness which, according to Gaztelu, she had shown in supplying the emperor's table on his journey through the country. Soles, lampreys, flounders, came in great quantities from Seville and Portugal. The country round Jarandilla furnished the *prices de résistance*, in the form of pork and mutton, for the emperor's table. Game also was to be had in abundance. He had a lively recollection, however, of some partridges, from a place belonging to the Count of Ossorno, formerly sent to him in Flanders. The major-domo ordered some to be procured from the same quarter now. But Charles remarked "they did not taste now as they had formerly tasted." The olives of Estramadura were too large and coarse for his liking. Repeated directions were given to procure a supply from Peregion, the trader who had furnished some of a smaller and more delicate kind, and to obtain from him, if possible, the receipt for pickling them. One might have thought that the land of pork, in which, as we have seen, Charles was living, would be that of sausages; but he had not forgotten those which his mother, "now in glory," was in the habit of having made for herself in

Tordesillas. There the secretary of state was directed to apply for some. In case he failed in that quarter, he could easily obtain a receipt for making them from the kitchen of the Marquis of Denia. Unfortunately, as the major-domo laments, the sausages did not reach Jarandilla till Thursday night; and, as they could not by any construction come into the category of fish, the emperor was obliged to defer his addresses to them for four-and-twenty hours, at least; possibly much longer, as the next letter records a sharp attack of gout.

The nobles and churchmen of the neighbourhood expressed their devotion by presents of game and vegetables, sweetmeats and pastry. The Duchess of Frias sent a delicate pair of gloves, but Charles, casting a glance at his gouty fingers, said she "should have sent him hands to wear them," for he was now the victim of gout, exasperated by over-feeding. Barley water, yolks of eggs, and senna wine, as well as the prescriptions of two physicians, were tried without success.

From Jarandilla, the sick emperor removed to his permanent retreat at Yuste, where he luxuriated among fish-ponds, flower-gardens, and orange and citron-trees. Narrow as he was, no less than sixteen robes of silk, lined with ermine, or erider down, or Barbary fur, were in his wardrobe; while his chamber glowed with Turkey and Alcaraz carpets, velvet canopies, embroidered tapestries, silver-gilt, gold, and jewellery. He had caskets full of relics, amulets, and chivalric decorations, and cabinets glittering with gems and medals. Eight Titians hung on the wall; but Charles cared little for books, his library consisting of missals, breviaries, the *Almagest* of Ptolemy, and the *Consolations* of Boethius, with a few classics, poems, and commentaries.

Mr. Prescott's account of his retirement is graphic and minute. He disproves a good many of the traditions concerning the philosophic apothegms of the emperor, and points out that his multitude of clocks and watches, and his thirty-six pairs of spectacles, were mere evidences of a mechanical turn of mind. Charles, though he ordered no woman to approach within two bow-shots of the convent, under pain of a whipping, amused himself by making little wooden figures of girls dancing with their tambourines. Then this lugubrious fanatic would sing with the chapel choir, dine alone, listen to a sermon, sup richly and unwholesomely, and, on Lenten Fridays, dog himself until the scourge was stained with blood.

It is clear, from the evidence collected by Mr. Prescott, that Charles, in his retirement, never abandoned his interest in the affairs of the empire. He was always a politician, always a bigot, always a despot, and mortally tortured a public functionary on the rack of Simancas. The rehearsal of his own obsequies was one of the most dismal mockeries ever enacted; but his death-bed was pious and resigned.

Dr. Robertson's *History*, with Mr. Prescott's additions, has been published by Messrs. Routledge in two convenient volumes.

#### ROMANCE FOR OLD AND YOUNG.

*The Story of my Wardship.* By Mary Catherine Jackson. 3 vols.—(Bentley).—*The Story of my Wardship* begins romantically among the fogless West Indian islands, and ends, more romantically still, in the interior of a village church. It is the autobiography of an heiress, the ward of a peer, who persecutes her with proposals of marriage. We will say at once that, as a tale, it is amusing, being written with vigour by a woman who has obviously seen no little of the world, and who has an aptitude for invention. Subscribers to circulating libraries, interested in knowing how an opulent and lovely Isola, consigned to the offensive authority of a foppish middle-aged Lord D'Arville, may pass through a variety of emotional storms, dangers, and deceptions, will find that Miss Jackson is master of sufficient tact to keep the attention alive. Consequently, this novel is one to be read by uncritical persons, to whom the long evenings are dull, unless spent in the society of dark-eyed Reginalds, or golden-haired Lucies, figuring in a fictitious world. Nevertheless it has all the faults as well as some of the merits of a first work. Though fresh in style, and warm in feeling, it is strictly conventional in execution, the dialogue being essentially romantic, and therefore unnatural, and many of the incidents coming within the circle of blood and blue fire, which is the domain of the low-class melodrama. Miss Jackson is in want of a mystery, and resorts to the old artifice of a doubtful birth; she desires to rid herself of her despot guardian, and uses poison as more thrilling than the Court of Chancery or 'coming of age'; she must despatch the poisoner without an Old Bailey commonplace, and strikes the beautiful wretch with insanity; she searches for an 'effect' to create a lasting obligation as the prelude of a lasting love, and throws her heroine into the water in order that the hero may bring her out. Then we encounter in that desperately dilapidated local habitation the 'Old Hall' of three-volume novelists, that desperately monotonous person, Charles, with the light playing in his blue eye, and the glorious sunbeams touching the rich masses of his chestnut hair till they seem of gold, "the charms of an Antinous softening the rugged strength of a Hercules." Nor do we miss the invariable lady of the boudoir who reclines upon a ruby-velvet fauteuil, its rich gloss contrasting with her snow-white arms. This, by the way, is the murderess. There is a young girl with long silky ringlets of amber brown; there is a youth whose ardent mind pants for action; there is that particularly petrified fellow, the splendid parliamentary orator of a lady's novel; and there is an original sketch of a statesman talking to a child-like beauty about divisions and coalitions. All this is very sad; but with it there is enough of talent and originality in Miss Jackson's novel to fit it for the circulating libraries.

*Stories by an Archaeologist and his Friends.* 2 vols. (Bell and Daldy).—The title-page of this book is printed in red and black, the archaeological romancist being a lover of variegation. He has a natural sympathy, indeed, with the mediæval illuminators, who wrote in gold on grounds of purple, and made pictures of all their pages. In a word, he is a poetical archaeologist, and believes that his science has been malignèd by the ignorant world. The ignorant world, he complains, regard his brethren and himself as sexagenarian snappers-up of rusty trifles, old iron, crockery, tiles, bones, buttons, and leather; whereas they are frequently young, wear faultless mustachios, sometimes lip, and are even romantic in their way. What

is there necessarily venerable in the admiration of brightly-decorated leaves of vellum, or black-letter folios "in character dim," or moss-embroidered arches, missals, urns, traceried roofs, armour, damasquined jewels, goblets, chalices, and rings? Are not such researches carried on in the native region of romance—the legend-haunted centuries, the vaults and galleries of abbeys and castles, and ruin-sprinkled islands now desolate? In proof of the human and popular interest that attaches to archaeology, the writer of 'these presents' narrates ten ingenious stories, supposed to be told by certain archaeologists at their friendly meetings. The incidents have generally a tinge of historical truth, much scientific lore being mixed up, in a light though informing manner, with the narrations. There is a tale connected with the lost books of Livy. The discovery of gold in Australia, the introduction of the Fuschia Coccinea into England, some adventures in the Haroun-al-Raschid style attributed to Commodus and commemorated by medals, Queen Fredegonda's jealousy, the figures in antique tapestries, and other kindred subjects, are taken as suggestions of stories, which are told in an agreeable fashion. Occasionally the archaeologist falls into pedantry, his verbal elaborations being, at times, excessive. This is his way of picturing the first bloom of a fuschia in England:—

That morning's sun, at the little upper window, had performed one of the myriad miracles of light and heat. Yes, one of the buds had expanded; the crimson calyx had unloosed the hinges of its four elliptic segments, gracefully pointing downwards, which, like opening portals of carved coral, partially disclosed the magnificent regal purple of the soft and lovely petals, folded in spiral layers like a miniature roll of priceless velvet, from the centre of which was suspended the elegant tassell-like mass of silken filaments, tipped with their rich anthers, glistening like garnets, beyond which, depended, with an elegant curve, the slender style, brightly tipped as with another gem.

*Jonathan Oldaker; or, Leaves from the Diary of a Commercial Traveller.* By J. Crawford Wilson. (Bentley.)—We have met with some of these sketches in the pages of a magazine. They were then called *The Adventures of Benjamin Bobbin*, but have been so much altered that little of the original tissue remains. Jonathan Oldaker is a commercial traveller, and as travellers of that class see a good deal of life on a certain level, it may be supposed that he has many reminiscences to dilate upon, anecdotes to tell, portraits to draw. "The great commercial body, in whose proverbial integrity, unequalled energy, indomitable perseverance, and laudable determination to achieve excellence the vital principle of manufacturing England is embodied"—as Mr. Crawford Wilson says with bathetic fervour—will probably recognize some familiar faces, and remember a variety of the roadside and coffee-room traditions here set forth. The volume is described by its author as containing 'a tale,' but consists, in reality, of a number of episodes loosely put together. It is not to our taste; but there may be a public to appreciate the comedy and tragedy of Mr. Oldaker's career.

*Saxelford: a Story for the Young.* By E. J. May. (Routledge and Co.)—*Saxelford* is a story of boys and girls, naughty and other, the incidents being rather simple than heroic. The stealing and restitution of an embroidered collar constitute the mystery and the climax of the drama, Miss May contriving to make a profitable use of literary diluents in the form of nursery dialogues and play-ground puerilities, in order to fill three hundred and seventy-five pages. As a child's book, *Saxelford* is very weak and dull.

*The Young Yägers; or, A Narrative of Hunting Adventures in Southern Africa.* By Captain Mayne Reid. (Bogue.)—Captain Mayne Reid writes admirably for boys. His style is dashing, yet familiar and intelligible. He knows how to dress up a compilation on natural history in all the attractions of a wild romance. It is nothing to his readers that the mythical Groot Wilhem is a *rococo* Gordon Cumming, or that the adventures with pythons, hippopotami, lions, and camelpards have been told before in an octavo or quarto shape. His object is to prepare for Christmas firesides a thoroughly thrilling hunters' story, and he succeeds excellently well. We can imagine how, in December, 1857, copies of *The Young Yägers* will lie on school-room shelves, tattered, torn, and black from incessant use. The volume is prettily illustrated by Hervey.

*Snow-flakes and Sunbeams; or, The Young Fur Traders: a Tale of the Far North.* By R. M. Ballantyne. (Nelson and Sons.)—This belongs to the same class as *The Young Yägers*, but is marked by more originality and variety. Mr. Ballantyne's boy adventurers encounter many perils from storms, from the wild beasts of the forest, and from Indians, and likewise perform many feats of strength and skill, of which several are illustrated in engravings by the author. The story is sure to amuse the young and the credulous, to whom it is addressed, while even 'the old and incredible' may be interested in Mr. Ballantyne's pictures of the Far North and the Fur Trader's Life.

#### THE NORTHMEN IN CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

*The Northmen in Cumberland and Westmoreland.* By Robert Ferguson.

Longman and Co.

A GLANCE at any of our etymological dictionaries will at once reveal to us how unsatisfactory is the state of the knowledge we possess respecting the origin of many of the words in the English language. Some are left without a paternity, as *ail*, an island; others are fathered upon originals to which they bear no resemblance; whilst the derivations of not a few are glaring and inadmissible, and obviously palmed upon us by the presumption or ignorance of editors. The Anglo-Saxon is the grand basis, the fundamental element of the language, the French only introducing the softer phraseology of the old Norman feudal noblesse; the Latin furnishing a mongrel *copia verborum*; and the Greek lending its pliant and easily combinable nouns to make up a scientific jargon. But do not there exist in various districts traces of a dialect more extensively diffused at one time, than has hitherto been recognized? And might not an examination into, and a study of this dialect, lead to a clear and reasonable solution of the origin of many words, to which at present we can assign none or only a very dubious origin? Mr. Ferguson answers in the affirmative, and informs us that in Cumberland the remains of the Norwegian or Scandinavian dialect are very distinct, so distinct that he seems inclined to blame the oversight of those

who, in treating of the subject of language, have not noticed more particularly this element. "Does it not seem a great anomaly to refer to dialects which are merely cognate, as the German and the Dutch, and to ignore the language of a people who actually colonized a considerable portion of England, and for many a century wrestled with the Saxon for the dominion of the whole?" The likeness between the Dano-Saxon and the Anglo-Saxon, and the difficulty of distinguishing the one from the other, has been the real reason why our lexicographers have troubled themselves so little about the Scandinavian origin of words. "It is not sufficient to prove a word Danish; you must also prove that it is not Anglo-Saxon," is the rule laid down by Latham. It is true that a great part of the words in question might be derived from either of the two, yet because the Scandinavian is in the minority, it is no reason why it should be entirely voiceless nor allowed to claim any share in the formation of the language.

It appears, historically, that the Saxon Edmund, in league with Leoline, King of South Wales, marched against the Cumberland Britons, defeated them in a battle fought on the pass between Grassmere and Keswick, laid the country waste, and carried off and extirpated the inhabitants, so that it was entirely depopulated. It is further supposed that the Danes who had already possession of the Isle of Man and a few places on the coast of North Wales, or perhaps other Danes more recent emigrants from the mother-country, wandering about to find a new settlement, landed in this district, and took peaceable possession of the devastated hills. Here, then, is the immigration, and the comparative silence of historians about it is easily accounted for, since our old chroniclers delight to record only the struggles and conflicts of nations, and think a quiet, peaceable event, however important may be its future influence, unworthy of note.

If we examine closely into the subject of the Northmen in Cumberland and Westmoreland, Mr. Ferguson very clearly shows us that we shall find many traces of their Pagan worship and of their legislative and judicial institutions existing in the etymology of words and local traditions. We have, for example, *Thorsby*, a village near Carlisle, evidently derived from the words *by*, a village, and *Thor*, the principal god of the Norwegians; again, near the same village is another called Wiggonby, or "the holy village," from the Scandinavian word *viga*, to consecrate, and *by*, as before said, a village. *Thing* was the name of the great national council of the Northmen, and in *Portingscale* we have reference probably to the wooden booths erected for the convenience of those attending the *thing*, the prefix "port" signifying in old Norse the gate of a fortified place. If we consider the dwellings and settlements of the immigrants, we have, in the Scandinavian, *a*, land, earth, *thwaite*, ridding, *sive*, skew, *ray*, signifying possession or location; as *Ulpha* on the River Duddon, the territory or possession of Ulf; *Burnthwaite*, the property of Biörn; *Kettleside*, or the settlement of Ketil; and *Elleray*, "the corner among the alders," the seat of the late Professor Wilson on the Windermere. *Gill* a small ravine, *Grain* a division, *Band* a boundary, *Mel* a measure, *Heim*, *Thorp*, *Toft*, *Garth*, *Bow*, *Scale*, converted into "shield" or "shiel" in Northumberland; *Booth*, *Cot*, *Biggen*, *Stead*, *Dacre*, *Seat*, *Sel*, *Gale*, *Gate*, *Street*, *Skans*, *Stock*, *Wark*, all which words enter into the composition of the names of places in the north, and are of purely Scandinavian origin. Saxon and Scandinavian words are rarely combined; so rarely, indeed, that we must doubt the soundness of our derivation if we are obliged to attribute one part of a word to Saxon and another to Danish origin. Yet a curious instance occurs in "Ravensworth," in Westmoreland, the word *worth* being Saxon. Yet, according to Nicholson and Burns, the common people call it "Ravenside," that is, "the property of Rafn," thus rendering it entirely Scandinavian.

Without inquiring what inference may be drawn from the sepulchral remains of the Northmen or from the undecipherable Runic inscriptions which have been recently found, we may pursue the subject of names still further; and if we come to the mountains, lakes, and rivers of Cumberland, we shall find traces of the Scandinavian dialect still more strong. This, however, we must leave for the present, only noticing a few of the most prominent, such as "fells" which have the same name as those of Norway. The lake district produces *Blea Fell*, *Mell Fell*, *Stake Fell*, *Roman Fell*, and others. Norway also has its *Blee Fjeld*, *Mel Fjeld*, *Stake Fjeld*, and *Roman Fjeld*. *Berg* is from the old Norse *Berg*, *Burg*, and the word at present in use in the north of England is *burgh*. Kennel, observes Mr. Ferguson, renders "barge" a horseway up a steep hill. This is also the meaning given by Ray to "bargh" as a Yorkshire word; but it signifies properly not the road up the hill, but the hill itself. Hence, probably, the origin of "Barge-day"—the name given to Ascension-day in Newcastle—from the hill which our Lord ascended with his disciples, or from the general sense of ascending.

Some curious illustrations are given in the pages of the present work to show how letters are changed by different races, and, from the fact that each clings insensibly to its own national habit, how their origin may be traced back. The resemblance which the dialect of Cumberland and Westmoreland bears to the language of the Scandinavian North is striking, especially in the tendency of the people to harden the sounds. Thus *th* is changed into *d*, as "fadder" for "father," "smiddy" for "smithy;" *ch* and *sh* into *f*, as "kurn" for "churn," "skift" for "shift," "kirk" for "church," "mask" for "mash," to infuse, applied to tea is another peculiarity of the same kind frequently heard from persons who cannot be said to speak properly the Cumberland dialect. This property has also been noticed of the present inhabitants of Normandy, who for "chien" say "kien." Another transmutation of letters in the north is that of *e* into *ö*, as Whitehebben for Whitehaven, and *f* into *p*, as "Jowsep" for "Joseph." So in the old Norse we have "loft" for "loft," an upper room; *opt*, modern Danish *ofte*, often. "Lä" that in a so-af-ple-ace," resembles particularly the dialect of the present inhabitants of Jutland.

In an examination of this kind, care has to be taken that individual words be not allowed to have undue weight; but when we find the names in a district, and a mountainous district, which is universally more conservative in names, habits, and traditions, than lowland districts well classified, a definite basis for investigation has been established. In the whole course of his book, Mr. Ferguson has kept this idea in view, and feeling the ground



he trends upon at every step he takes, he has been cautious not to set up an hypothesis, or claim for individual words a Scandinavian origin without substantial reasons. The absence of dogmatism in a matter of speculation always induces us to treat an enquiry of whatever subject with greater leniency, and, in fact, to be carried along with the stream of argument as though conversing with an affable friend. Mr. Ferguson is not equally strong in his proofs or inferences everywhere. He establishes, however, his point that a sufficient importance has not been conceded to the Scandinavian dialect as an element in the formation of our language. It is not to the philologist alone that the present work will prove acceptable. Throughout are scattered little anecdotes of history linking the past and the present—local traditions, introducing us bodily to the customs of the old sea-rovers, from whom Mr. Ferguson would have us believe the youths of Britain inherit that 'salt blood' which makes them turn, with the steadiness of instinct, to the ocean as their home—startling revelations of the origin of words we have been long familiar with—so that the book cannot fail to be interesting to the least initiated student.

### THE DRAPER IN AUSTRALIA.

*The Draper in Australia.* Being a Narrative of Three Years' Adventures and Experience at the Gold Fields, &c. Freeman.

THE 'Draper' was leader and treasurer of an emigrant party which arrived at Sydney in March, 1853. They immediately started for the bush, with a horse and cart, arms and provisions, and camped at night, as though they had learned tent-pitching in the Sahara. They saw natives and opossums, enjoyed the hospitality of the scattered settlers, endured the ordinary discomforts of Australian travel, arrived at a digging, took out their licenses, and began their search for gold. For some time none was discovered; but after the patient labours of many days, the work began to pay, and the treasurership ceased to be a sinecure. Evening after evening, the Draper received the gold dust collected by his whole party, weighed it, cleaned it, and packed it away:—

The largest quantity of gold I procured in one day was fourteen ounces and three-quarters, troy weight. This was all found within a very small space of ground, deposited about ten feet from the surface, upon the top of yellow tenacious clay.

At the end of five weeks, however, his strength failed; he quitted the mines, exchanged his dust for money, and journeyed to Melbourne, where, on the morning after his arrival, he witnessed the execution of two murderers. His next speculation was in horses; but, by November of the third year, he had 'made up his mind' that he might prosper at home as well as in a colony, and started for England. Nevertheless, he adds to his narration a chapter of encouraging advice to emigrants. Two or three examples of this we will select, as to the persons who should emigrate:—

The most suitable men for the colonies are those who are brought up to manual labour, whether they intend going to the gold mines, or think of settling down in the bush to pay attention to any kind of farming. There are a limited number of mercantile men required; but generally the latter class are too numerous, while the former are too few in number. The merchant or clerk cannot always find a business suitable; but the labouring man can, without doubt, find employment.

This is not new advice; but it is neglected by an extraordinary number of persons who visit the colonies in search of wealth and find only disappointment.

I would advise persons who feel inclined to go to the gold mines of Australia, not to join any one in England, unless they are tried friends; and if so, club together by all means; but if you have no friend whose character you well know, leave the choice of a companion till you reach the golden land, as it will be much better not to enter into any engagement previous to emigrating than to risk separation after once beginning to labour.

This, again, should be told to every 'intending emigrant.' Indeed, we strongly recommend to that personage, usually so bewildered, an attentive perusal of the 'Draper's' homely, but entertaining and intelligent book.

### THE CLIMATE OF EGYPT.

*Egypt: Its Climate, Character, and Resources as a Winter Resort.* By A. Henry Rhind. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

THERE are many persons who affect to be Platonists, and some who assent to the Platonic doctrine that the best way to treat a man in weak health, is to let him die off with all possible rapidity. Mr. Rhind objects, and counsels the invalid in some cases to go to Egypt. There have been diversities of opinion on this point; but Mr. Rhind takes them boldly into his programme, and allows that Cairo has its drawbacks, though the river has scarcely one. Not in a hygienic sense only does he treat of the Nile and its valley. Milk and chickens, crocodiles and game, and general topics connected with a winter's sojourn in Egypt come lightly under discussion; but the main question relates to the climate. Is it healthy? In some parts, and for some people. Its grand excellence consists in its exquisitely genial equability, comparing day by day, while its grand defect consists in its great, though steady diurnal variation of temperature as between day and night. This defect, however, is more theoretical than of actual importance in practice. Even at present, with no other habitation than a boat or a tomb, it can be almost completely guarded against by avoiding exposure after nightfall; and were there houses that invalids could live in for a part of the time in the Saeed, and for a part in the latitude of Cairo, the nearest approach to climatical perfection that the earth can afford would probably be attained. Moreover, the same conditions may be counted on with certainty year after year. "To a traveller in a climate so warm and delightful, the golden age is no fable." The natives of Egypt and Nubia scarcely suffer at all from phthisis; the pestilences that visit the lower country seldom or never penetrate to a distance of three hundred miles up the valley, and visitations of small pox are now extremely rare.

In his acute and instructive essay, Mr. Rhind investigates a number of collateral circumstances, which, in addition to the climate, may be supposed to act upon the health of the inhabitants and of travellers.

## The Arts.

### MONT BLANC.

MONT BLANC reopened, with unabated success, on Monday; and, this time, Mr. ALBERT SMITH, conceiving, as he tells the audience, that he has said enough about the monarch mountain, simply gives the pictures of the Ascent (which have been repainted, with considerable additions), accompanied by music, but not by any description. The second part of the entertainment (which is quite new) takes us to Baden, its 'Conversation House,' and its fair, where the lecturer (if he can be so called) introduces several of his marvellously dramatic and truthful character sketches. There are of course several new views from the bright and glowing pencil of BEVERLEY; and a new grievance is provided for *Edwards*, the English engineer, who is seen still looming through that dense mental fog which steams up from his own brain, and still haunted by the gigantic shadow of a wrong which he cannot clearly conceive, or make any approach towards describing; failing which, like Ophelia, 'incapable of his own distress,' he sings a lugubrious song about a nautical ghost, with an incoherent burden of "Rule Britannia" and "God save the Queen."

In an additional stanza to the song of "The Young English Traveller," Mr. ALBERT SMITH thus alludes to the daring emulators of himself who are constantly ascending the White Mountain:—

"He next proceeds to Chamouni, and up Mont Blanc he climbs,  
And, coming back, of course he writes a letter to the *Times*;  
In fact, he climbs up anything, without an aim or view,  
Because he has a notion it's the sort of thing to do."

The most characteristic 'bits' are, we think, the 'Pastor' song, descriptive of the scenery of the Rhine, into which Mr. ALBERT SMITH concentrates the essence of fifty 'instructive' guide-books (and makes it a sparkling essence into the bargain)—taking the time at a terrific pace, and striking out fun and wit like fireworks;—the German verger in the cathedral of Cologne—a perfect daguerreotype—the distressingly true and tearful interview between a British Mamma and Miss, overheard from an adjoining bedroom, and retained with a pitiless accuracy; and last not least, the 'Galignani' song, which Mr. ALBERT SMITH turns into a (very rapid) vehicle for all the latest news down to 'this evening's paper,' summarized with a delightful humour and vivacity, not usually to be found in newspaper columns. Whether Mr. ALBERT SMITH is getting a little tired, or not, of his own success, we know not; certain it is that the public enjoyment shows no symptom of flagging, and Mont Blanc at the Egyptian Hall (although the Mountain itself is now only a *point d'appui* for the pleasant social satirist's tour of observation) is as much an institution among us as the Opera.

### THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

MISS DOLBY has commenced the series of *Soirées Musicales* which she generally gives at this season of the year at her own residence. The first took place on Tuesday evening.

The frequenters of the OLYMPIC were on Monday night entertained by the production of Mrs. INCHBALD's comedy of *Wives as they were, and Maids as they are*—one of those singular creations of the conventional days of sixty or seventy years ago. The HAYMARKET has recently been setting a fashion in this direction, and without at all desiring to see revived the exploded stage nature of the close of the last century and the commencement of the present, it is undoubtedly amusing to be introduced to the kind of dramatic entertainment which was considered fascinating by our grandfathers and grandmothers. The audience on Monday night, therefore, was well pleased to see Messrs FREDERICK and GEORGE VINING in the characters of *Sir William Dorrillon* and *Bromely* the rake; Mr. COOKE as *Norberry*; Mr. ADDISON as *Lord Priory*; the ever vivacious and charming Mrs. STIRLING as *Miss Dorrillon*; Miss SWANBOROUGH as *Lady Priory*; and Miss HERBERT as *Lady Mary Raffle*. The last-mentioned lady is an actress of great promise, and we are glad to record another of her successes.—On the same night, Mr. ROBSON appeared in one of his strange phantasmagorical combinations of pathos and burlesque, a new farce being produced for him called *Jones the Avenger*. He performs a Mr. Jones, who is under an obligation to revenge an injured uncle (dead when the piece commences), who has been deeply wronged by one Tomlinson. Poor Jones fixes on a certain person of that name (who of course, is not the right man), and tracks him with a fierce, yet hesitating and preposterous, animosity. Two or three times he fancies he has caused his death; and then he falls into a passion of remorse. It is needless to say that the innocent and unsuspecting Tomlinson passes scathless through all these perils; and the play-goer will easily conceive, without our telling him, what a wild, strange portrait Mr. ROBSON makes of the vacillating Jones.

Mr. DILLON has already announced his benefit—rather precipitately, as it seems to us; and on that occasion he is to startle London with his conception of *Othello*. He has revived the entertainment of a troop of Bedouins—a novelty which does not speak highly for dramatic prospects at the LYCEUM.

Mr. ENERY, who has recently left the OLYMPIC, has taken the MARYLEBONE THEATRE, where he will commence his campaign on the 26th of December.

We regret to find that Madame GASSIEN has caught a severe cold, which has prevented her from singing for a time at DRURY LANE. In the emergency thus created, Mdle. BERTI undertook the part of *Rosina* at two hours' notice, and got through her task with much spirit. These unavoidable indispositions are among the most perplexing of a manager's troubles, especially of an operative manager's; and the sudden closing of the house for the night is not unfrequently the result—a catastrophe which was averted on the present occasion by Mdle. BERTI's readiness.

AMATEUR PERFORMANCE.—The amateurs who performed at the St. JAMES'S THEATRE for the Patriotic and Crimean Funds, and the officers who played before her Majesty last month at Aldershot, purpose giving a dramatic performance at the St. JAMES'S THEATRE on Friday, December 5th. The proceeds will be devoted to the "relief of destitution of the metropolis during the winter season."

**SUICIDE.**—A suicide has been committed on the line of the Great Northern Railway. Mr. William John Wright, principal partner in the firm of Messrs. Scales and Pollard, wholesale tobacconists in the City, threw himself on his knees on the line as a train was passing, and was killed. His business was exceedingly prosperous, but for some time past he had entertained an idea that he should die in a workhouse. His managing book-keeper related at the inquest that the last time he saw him, which was on the evening before the suicide, he was quite insane in his manners, and exclaimed, on parting, "I am deranged." A verdict of "Temporary Insanity."

**ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.**—Mr. Peter Rolt, one of the members for Greenwich, having purchased the ship-building yard at Blackwall, and thinking he may be called on to execute Government contracts, has issued an address intimating his intention to resign.—Mr. W. Coffin contemplates giving up his seat for Cardiff; and Lord James Stuart, uncle of the present Marquis of Bute, is taking steps to occupy the vacant place.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

### BIRTHS.

**BLANDFORD.**—On the 25th inst., at 36, Lower Brook-street, the Marchioness of Blandford, a son.

**NUTT.**—On the 22nd inst., the wife of Mr. David Nutt, of the Strand: a son.

### MARRIAGES.

**KIRKLAND—CRUNDWELL.**—On the 8th inst., at the district church of Kildonborough, Tonbridge, by the Rev. Edward Vinall, Mr. Walter Kirkland, to Miss Emily Crundwell, both of Tonbridge.

**ROGERS—CARTER.**—On the 10th of July, 1856, at St. John's New-town, Robert-John, John Warrington Rogers, Esq., Solicitor-General, to Eliza, fourth daughter of William Carter, Esq., of New-town Park.

### DEATHS.

**PLAYFAIR.**—On the 2nd inst., at 10, Clarges-street, Piccadilly, James George Playfair, Esq., M.D., formerly of 17, Great Stuart-street, Edinburgh.

**RODEN.**—On the 23rd inst., at her house at Bath, Julian Anne, Countess Dowager of Roden, aged 82.

**STEWART.**—On the 8th inst., at Pau, in France, Georgina Eliza, daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel Josiah Stewart, C.B., aged 50.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, November 25.

**BANKRUPTS.**—JOHN KINGSFORD INGE, Littlebourne, Kent, brewer and maltster—WILLIAM WENDEN, Great Bromley, Essex, cattle dealer—JOHN COMLEY, Dawley, Salop, draper—REES DAVIES, Tredegar, Monmouth, grocer—RICHARD BERRY, Ormskirk, Lancaster, innkeeper.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—WILLIAM WALTER SWINDELL, Glasgow, commission merchant—GEO. MEARNES, Cumnock, spirit dealer and innkeeper—JAMES STEWART, Carmichael, Glasgow, druggist—DAVID SHARP, Clackmannan, grocer and spirit dealer.

Friday, November 28.

**BANKRUPTS.**—GEORGE DANNY, late of Watford, Hertfordshire, now of Old-street, wine merchant—ALFRED GUEST, Kidderminster, grocer—SIMON LORD and EDWARD LORD, Bacup, millwrights—SAMUEL PALMER CHAPMAN, Lincoln, grocer—DAY ASQUITH, Halifax, Yorkshire, innkeeper—WILLIAM BRISCOE, Ashton-under-Lyne, timber dealer—CHARLES OSWALD ROBSON, Belmont-wharf, York-road, King's-cross, wharfinger—MICHAEL WILLIS, Shot Tower-wharf, Lambeth, fire wood manufacturer—WILLIAM HUGHES, Liverpool, builder—GEORGE SLEDGALL WRIGHT and JOHN WRIGHT, Liverpool, brewers—MARGARET JANE STOVIED, Blyth, Northumberlandshire, shipbuilder.

## Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, November 28, 1856.

The high rate of interest paid by the public would not seem to deter them from buying largely. It is understood that the Bank returns for this week and next will be of a very favourable nature, and it is confidently expected that the rate of discount must be lowered before the coming account day, December 15th.

The rates paid for continuation on Consols show the heavy speculation for a rise in those securities. The transactions in foreign stocks have been numerous, and the several markets have been well supported. Turkish 6 per cent. closes at 96, and the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock at 10.

Railway shares are all very much advanced. The heavy share market is very well supported. Great Westerns and Leeds and Midlands are all eagerly sought; London and South Western hang fire, and from the heavy rates of continuations paid on this stock, it would seem as if they had been forced up too high.

Divers and Caledonians are greatly in demand, particularly the former. Foreign shares in railways rule higher, and all East Indian and Colonial railways are in demand. English mining shares are much higher in value; the rise in copper ore, &c., has given them more importance. Great Alfred, West of Greatville, Great South Tolgus, Wheel Damsel, Mary Anne, United Mines, and several of those in the Tavistock district, are favourites. Joint-stock banks have improved in value. Foreign mining shares much as usual.

Consols close 94½, 94.

The following are the closing prices of to-day:—

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 58½, 59½; Chester and Holyhead, 38, 40; Eastern Counties, 98, 99; Great Northern, 91, 92; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 115, 117; Great Western, 69, 70; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 97, 97½; London and Blackwall, 3½, 7; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 109, 110; London and North-Western, 105½, 106; London and South-Western, 107, 108; Midland, 82, 82½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 85, 86; South-Eastern (Dover), 74, 74½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 61, 7½; Dutch (Bever), 11, 11½; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 33½, 33½; Great Central of France, 34, 41 pm.; Great Luxembourg, 33½, 33½; Northern of France, 37½, 38½; Paris and Lyons, 33½, 33½; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 14, 15; Sambre and Meuse, 9, 9½.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, November 28, 1856.

THE arrivals of Foreign and English Grain have fallen off this week, and more firmness has been evinced by holders of all articles. There have also been but few arrivals off the coast. Taganrog Ghirka has been sold at 59s. 6d., 60s. 6d., and 61s.; Saida at 58s. 6d. and 59s.; Galatz and Odessa Maize at 36s. 3d., and 36s. 6d. The purchases for the French Government have ceased, but hard wheat continues to be exported to Spain and Portugal. Barley and Oats sell more readily, and at prices rather in excess of those in our last report.

## BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	217	215½	215	217	215½	217
3 per Cent. Red.....	92½	92½	93½	92½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.....	93½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Consols for Account.....	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 3 per Cent. An.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 2½ per Cent. An.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79½
Long Ans 1860.....	17½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	225	227	225	225	227½	.....
Ditto Bonds.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	2 p	2 p	3 p	4 p	5 p	5 p
Ditto, £500.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, Small.....	3 p	5 p	2 p	5 p	2 p	2 p

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds.....	99½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents. ....	.....	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	106½
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Spanish.....	41
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65	Spanish Committee Cer- of Consol. not fun.....	4½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. ....	63	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	94½
Equador Bonds.....	14	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....	101½
Mexican Account.....	22½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents. ....	.....
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	77	.....	.....
Portuguese 3 per Cents.....	45½	.....	.....

**DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,** 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton, F.R.G.S., a new and highly-interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, P.M. precisely.—Admission, 1s.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS** UNPARALLELED REMEDIES FOR SCORBUIC ERUPTIONS.—John Nicholl, Dale-street, Liverpool, informs Professor Holloway he was suffering for many years with a scorbutic eruption on both arms; this painful complaint affected his bodily health, he became seriously ill, and consulted the most eminent medical practitioners in Liverpool, without experiencing the slightest relief, when he was advised to give those far-famed remedies a trial, and in an inconceivable short time was completely cured, gratefully rendering his testimony for the benefit of others similarly afflicted.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professors HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 50, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

## A NEW AND IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

Patent Office Seal of Great Britain. Diplôme de l'Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris. Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna.

**TRIESEMAR, Nos. 1, 2, and 3,** is prepared in the form of a lozenge, devoid of taste or smell, and can be carried in the waistcoat pocket. Sold in tin cases, divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, Ricord, &c., &c.

**TRIESEMAR, No. 1,** is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, indiscriminate excesses, or too long residence in hot climates. It has restored bodily and sexual strength and vigour to thousands of debilitated individuals, who are now enjoying health and the faculties of Manhood through this Wonderful Discovery!

**TRIESEMAR, No. II,** effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of Gonorrhoea, both in its mild and aggravated forms, Gleet, Stricture, Irritation of the Bladder, Non-retention of Urine, Pains of the Loins and Kidneys, and those disorders which Copavi and Cubeba have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

**TRIESEMAR, No. III,** is the great Continental Remedy for Syphilis and Secondary Symptoms. It searches out and purifies the diseased humours from the blood, and cleanses the system from all deteriorating causes; it also constitutes a certain Cure for Scurvy, Scrofula, and all Cutaneous Eruptions, and is a never-failing Remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English Physician treats with Mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot restore.

Price 11s., or four cases in one for 33s., which saves 11s.; and in 54 cases, saving 11s. 12s. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hannay and Co., 65, Oxford-street; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street.

**HUMAN FRAILTY:** a Medical Work, price 1s. post free, illustrated with 100 Engravings, and containing the opinions of Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, Ricord, &c. It gives copious instructions for the perfect Restoration of those suffering from the consequences of early abuse, Gonorrhoea, and Syphilis, and also showing the benefits arising from the chemical tests and examination of the Spermatosa, by the Author's newly-constructed Urinometer, with powerful lenses. Piper & Co., 23, Paternoster-row; and from all Agents for the sale of "Triese-mar."

## ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAT.

Monday, and during the week, the Comedy of **WIVES AS THEY WERE AND MAIDS AS THEY ARE.** Lord Priory, Mr. Addison; Sir W. Dorrillon, Mr. F. Vining; Sir G. Evelyn, Mr. G. Murray; Bronsely, Mr. G. Vining; Norberry, Mr. G. Cooke; Oliver, Mr. White; Nabson, Mr. H. Cooper.

Lady Priory, Miss Swanborough; Lady Mary Ruffes, Miss Herbert, Miss Dorrillon, Mrs. Stirling. After which, a new Farce called

JONES THE AVENGER.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, J. Rogers, Danvers, G. Cooke, and Miss Marston.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

**MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.**—Baden—Up the Rhine and Paris, is now OPEN every evening (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. Stalls, 2s.; area, 2s.; gallery, 1s. Stalls can be secured at the Box-office, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, every day, between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge. The Morning representations take place every Tuesday and Saturday, at Three o'clock.

**SALLE VOUSDEN, 315, Oxford-street** (ten doors from Regent-circus).—Every evening during the week (except Saturday), VALENTINE VOUSDEN, the Great POLYNATURAL MIMIC, will appear in his original Entertainment, THE UNITY OF NATIONS, as performed by him for 300 consecutive nights at the Rotunda, Dublin. See opinions of the Press.

Reserved seats, 3s.; Second ditto, 2s.; Third ditto, 1s. Doors open at Half-past Seven, commence at Eight. The Reserved Seats may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

Under the Patronage of Royalty and the Authority of the Faculty.

## KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A

Certain Remedy for Disorders of the Pulmonary Organs: in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma, and in Winter Cough, they have never been known to fail.

Prepared and sold in Boxes, 1s. 14d., and Tins, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London; and retail by all Druggists.

## DR. DE JONGH'S

## LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL

Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Its leading distinctive characteristics are: COMPLETE PRESERVATION OF ACTIVE AND ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES.

INVARIABLE PURITY AND UNIFORM WHOLENESS. ENTIRE FREEDOM FROM PUNY AND FLAVOUR AND AFTER TASTE.

RAPID CURATIVE EFFECTS, AND CONSEQUENT ECONOMY.

OPINION OF WILLIAM ALLEN MILLER, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry, King's College, London. Author of "Elements of Chemistry: Theoretical and Practical," &c. &c.

"The samples of the Oil examined were purchased by myself. I have no doubt that they are what they profess to be—genuine specimens of Cod Liver Oil, as they possess the composition of this substance, and exhibit, in a marked degree, the chemical characters by which this Oil is distinguished, and to which its medicinal qualities are attributed."

Sold ONLY in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 6d. Quarts, 9s., and bottled and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., sole British Consignees, 77, Strand, London; and by many respectable Chemists and Druggists.

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